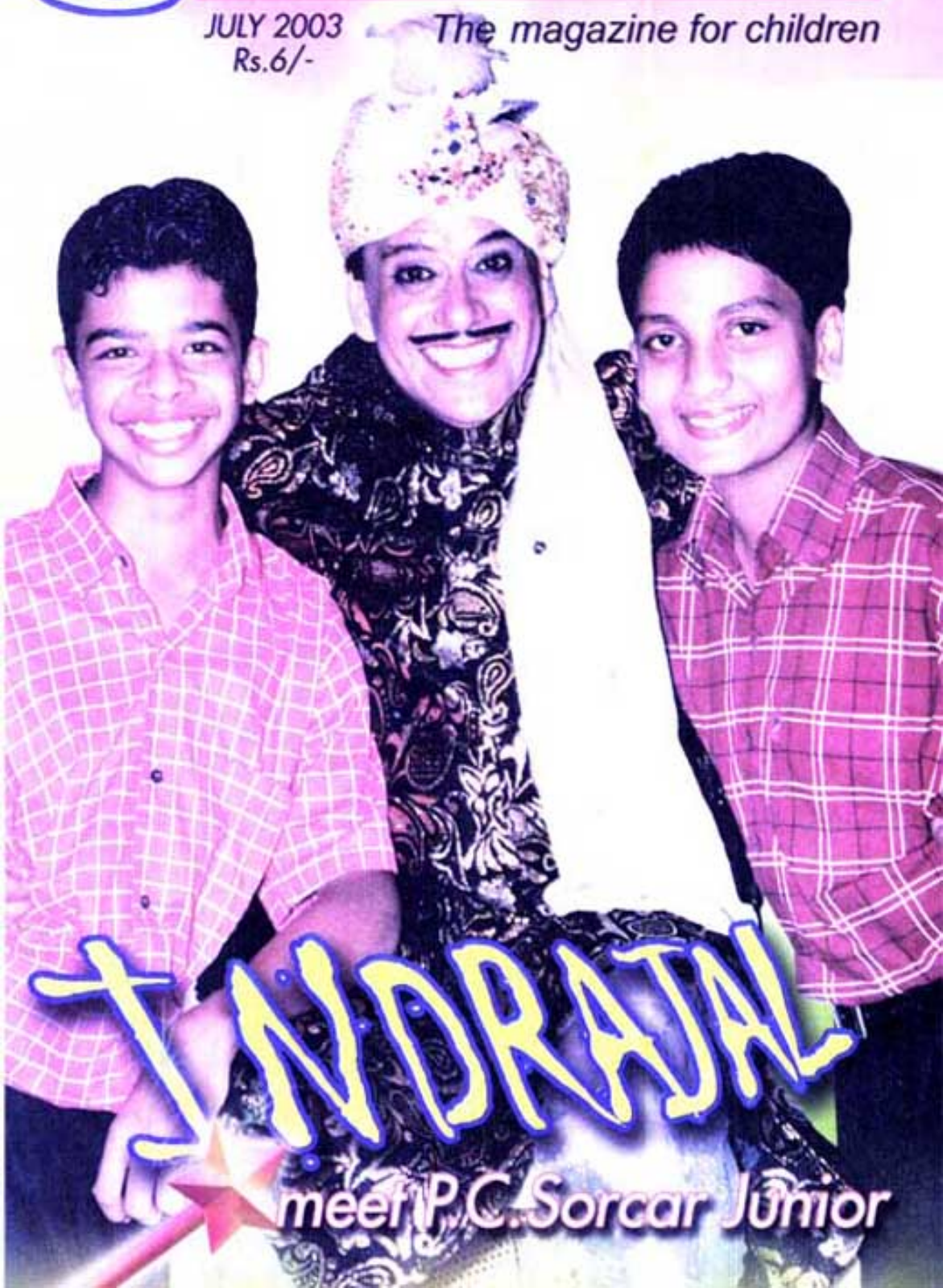


GOKULAM

JULY 2003
Rs.6/-

The magazine for children



INDRATAJAL

meer P.C. Sorcar Junior

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GOKULAM

July 2003
Vol.XVI, No.1

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.

-William Canton



Bravest
among
the braves...

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GOKULAM

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The Magazine for Children

A RUDE SHOCK!

Dear Reader,

Recently I got a rude shock when I opened the morning papers. I'm sure you would have been equally shocked if you had read the news. Braze yourself to read the headline reproduced below:

"CORPORAL PUNISHMENT DRIVES BOY TO COMMIT SUICIDE!"

screams the headline! In fact it was a double shock.

The first was that corporal punishment (inflicting punishment on the body) is still being practiced in some schools.

The second was that the boy felt so ashamed that he ended his life!

It is a shame that corporal punishment for children is still allowed by law! What crime can the students commit in school? Perhaps they don't do their home work. May be they score poor marks. It is also possible that one or two boys or girls indulge in unruly behaviour. But what right do the teachers have to beat the children for these lapses? If they are unable to control them they can report the matter to their parents. But using a cane in front of all other students creates a humiliation which cannot be overcome easily. The degradation will be felt for a long period, perhaps even a lifetime, spoiling the boy's entire future. It is the humiliation and not the physical pain which leads to extraordinary situations like a suicide.

Teachers must learn to attract students by their love and affection. They must impress the boys and girls in their class by their brilliant teaching capacity. If some one has a doubt the teacher must be easily approachable. A welcome smile will immediately put the student at ease and create all the respect that is required towards the teacher. The teacher should set an example for the student and bring out the leadership quality in him and not create an inferiority complex.

In turn, boys and girls too should act with responsibility and not prove to be a nuisance to the school administration.

It is a two way traffic, and rules if not followed may lead to tragic accidents.

- Editor

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Admissions Open!

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Mr. Veerappan, Director,
Institute of Kidnapping,
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Idea : **Harikrishnan, Std. IX,**
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Coimbatore

**HELLO,
DOCTOR!**

Your Next Topic ORAL (Mouth) & THROAT CARE

Send in your queries to :

Dr. G. Ganesan, C/o Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,

47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097.

● Last Date : 20.07.2003 ● Write on postcard only

● Give details of name, age, class, school and residential address.



Are you intrigued by the title ARTFORMSMAN FORMSART? Yes art forms man and man forms art. Can you think of life without art? Think of living without colourful clothes, kolams on the threshold, no decoration in the house, no story to read, no movie to see... There is a story in our Shastras about this. Listen...

Brahma is said to have created the world. He also created the trees, the rivers, the flowers, the bees, the deer, the lion, the butterfly, the spider's web, the...the.... The list can go on and on (try writing a list and you will keep adding) and oh! What beauty and what diversity!

But some people forgot all about this beauty in nature and slowly became greedy and jealous and angry. A few sages contemplated on this and prayed to Brahma to create something

The Birth

that would take away pettiness from the minds of human beings and add beauty and thinking to their lives. Brahma thought for while and created the fifth Veda, the Panchama Veda and what was that? THE ARTS.

Humankind was given the power of creation! The power of bringing the Gods down to earth through representation and abstraction! So the arts were born. Can you add to my list of arts?

Storytelling, music, poetry, painting, dance, sculpture, weaving, basketry, drama.... More... and more...

Let us look at dance. Officially there



of Arts

When Brahma created
the fifth Veda, the arts
were born.

are seven classical dance styles in India. Bharathanatyam, Kathak, Manipuri, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Kathakali and Mohiniattam (When India got independence from the British, only four were declared as classical). But there are innumerable folk dance styles in India that are community ritual dances in the villages. Every traditional performance combines the arts of movement, dialogue, craft, drama and ritual. It is an unbelievable spectacle that can awe inspire anyone.

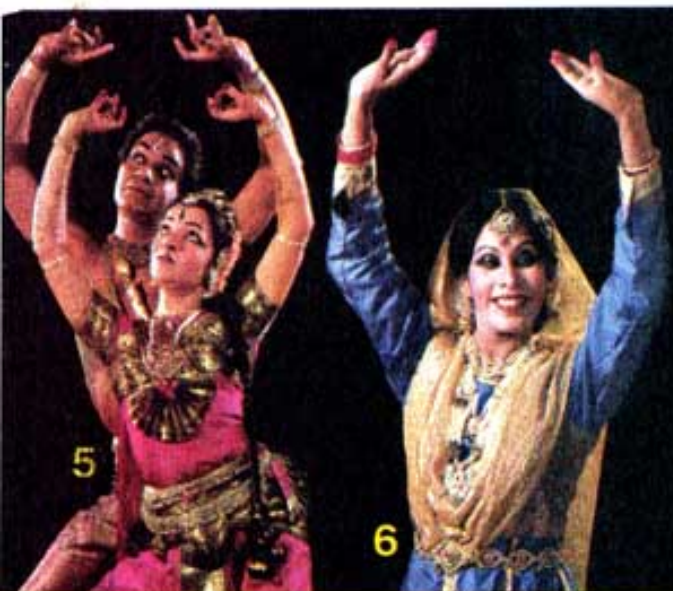
In Tamilnadu we have a form called *Koothu*.

Koothu is a Tamil word for play or dance. The Koothu performed by the rural Tamils as a ritual in the vil-

lages is called Therukoothu. But some artists want to call it Kattaikoothu because the characters use a crown made of Kattai or wood. They feel it was the high society people who called it Therukoothu meaning street theatre, as it is performed in open spaces outside Draupadi Amman temples.

Story of the Koothu of the Tamils in the next issue... meanwhile write me your list of arts don't forget... I will announce the name of the person who has listed maximum number of arts. Please do not forget to give your name, name of the school and class and your address.

Write to me through Gokulam.



1. Mohiniattam
2. Manipuri
3. Odissi
4. Bharathanatyam
5. Kuchipudi
6. Kathak
7. Kathakali

UTANGA LEARNS HIS LESSON

Utanga was an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. Once, Krishna having taken the Viswaroopa* form, appeared before Utanga and offered to grant him a boon.

"Ask for a boon dear Utanga" said Krishna with a smile.

Utanga fell at the feet of the Lord and said, "My Lord! I am a happy and contented man. I have only one wish. I travel a lot, travelling from one holy place to another. Sometimes I feel very thirsty. I would like to have water appear before me whenever I am thirsty. I will then drink it and be blessed by you."

The boon was granted. A few months passed.

Utanga on one of his travels, was walking through a desert. It was a

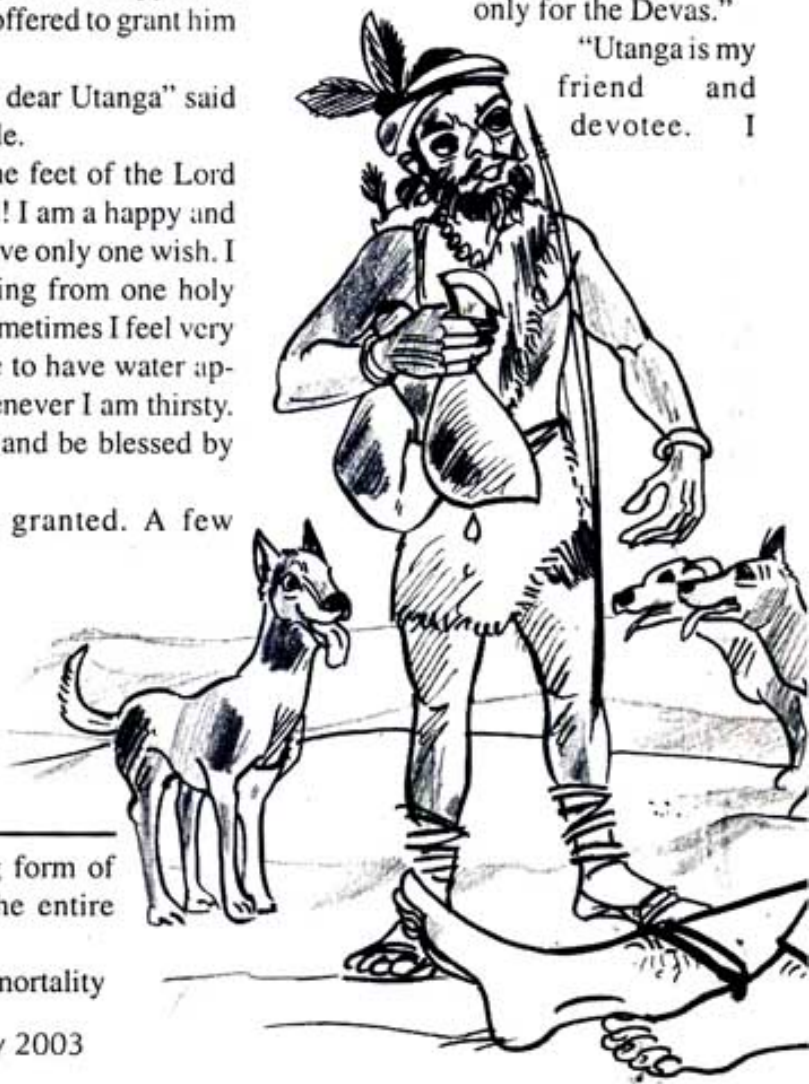
very hot day and his throat was parched. Utanga prayed to Lord Krishna.

"Krishna! I am so thirsty. Please give me some water."

Krishna heard his devotee's prayer. He called Indra and instructed him to give the Amrit** to Utanga.

Indra spoke to the Lord. "I cannot give the Amrit to a mortal. It is meant only for the Devas."

"Utanga is my friend and devotee. I



* all encompassing form of the Lord, filling the entire universe

** the nectar of immortality

want him to be immortal. Kindly do as I say" said Krishna.

Indra agreed but placed a condition. "I shall do as you say Krishna. But I will give it in whatever manner I like" he said.

Krishna agreed.

A low cast hunter appeared in front of Utanga in the desert. He had water in his leather bag.

"Oh! Holy man! Have some water. You must be thirsty!" said the hunter. His dogs wagged their tails and looked eagerly at the water bag.

Utanga was shocked. "How can I drink water given to me by this low cast man? Krishna has deceived me" he thought.

Utanga, on one of his travels, was walking through a desert. It was a very hot day and his throat was parched. Utanga prayed to Lord Krishna...

Utanga refused the water. "I can manage to walk without water till I reach a village. Thank you."

So saying Utanga started walking away from the hunter. The hunter too disappeared with his dogs.

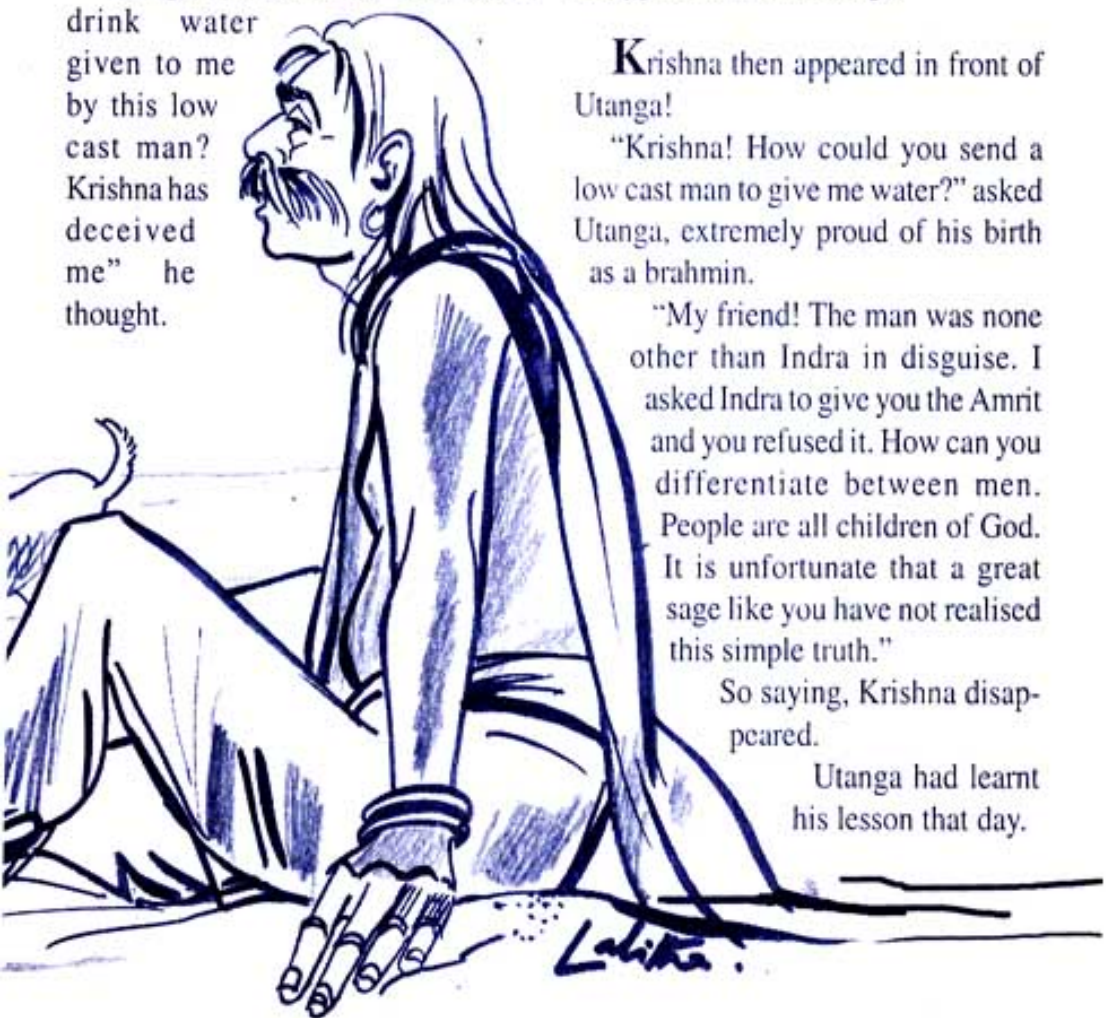
Krishna then appeared in front of Utanga!

"Krishna! How could you send a low cast man to give me water?" asked Utanga, extremely proud of his birth as a brahmin.

"My friend! The man was none other than Indra in disguise. I asked Indra to give you the Amrit and you refused it. How can you differentiate between men. People are all children of God. It is unfortunate that a great sage like you have not realised this simple truth."

So saying, Krishna disappeared.

Utanga had learnt his lesson that day.

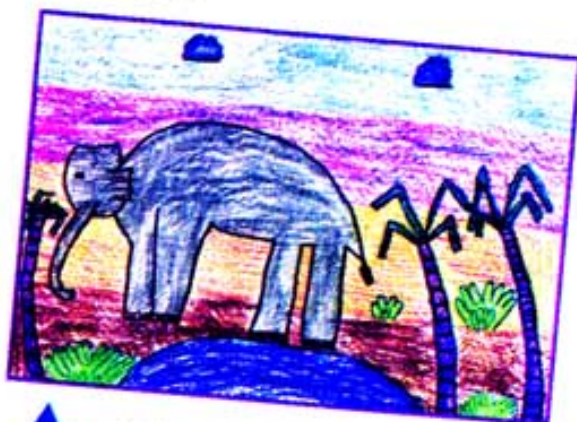


ART GALLERY

VAISHALI ESWARAN,
Std.II, Sishya School, Hosur



P. VARDHANI,
Std.I, Modern Senior Sec. School, Chennai



G. SUSHIL VASAN,
Std.II, DAV School, Chennai

ADITI PRADHAN,
L.K.G., M.H.M.S., Kolkata



Y. LAVANYA,
Std.III, TOC - H Public School,
Cochin



I was one among the fortunate few to have been present at the gathering that evening - the 5th of June.

The event :
Screening of the documentary 'Danger in Tiger Paradise'

The producer :
Tiger Man of India - Valmik Thapar

The occasion :
World Environment Day

The organisers :
Elements and AMP Sanmar, Chennai.

India hosts 45% of the world's tiger population. One of the most famous abodes of the cat is the Rathambore Tiger Reserve in South East Rajasthan. This is where Thapar shot his recent film.

★ ★ ★

Machli's male cubs were well fed and shaping up nicely. But a new threat - a threat to their lives - had emerged in the form of Nick, a 400 pound male tiger.

Male tigers look at cubs as potential rivals and take to killing them when they are not their own cubs.

Our friend Nick had wan-

Machli called. She called out to her two 2-year old male cubs. The tigress could sense danger...



"DANGER IN TIGER PARADISE"

dered into Machli's territory. The cub's father had disappeared - probably driven off by Nick himself.

Valmik Thapar, while closely, following the movements of Machli and her cubs, had spotted the tigress fighting Nick. Worried about the danger imposed on the mother and her cubs by this stranger, Thapar began to keep watch.

Monsoons arrived, the park closed and Thapar had to leave.

When he returned after four months, Thapar discovered that Machli had actually accepted the presence of the new male member and was no longer aggressive.

But, where were the two cubs? Had they wandered away on their own? Had they been driven out? Or worse, had they been killed by Nick?

Days of searching the park yielded nothing, until a month later, Thapar finally came across a majestic male tiger right on the other side of the park.

The cat had made a chital kill and was sitting beside it, panting. Thapar immediately recognised him as one of Machli's cubs. The broken tail that twitched on the male's back confirmed so. At last, he had found one of the cubs - atleast one if not both had survived the danger in Tiger Paradise.

Valmik Thapar spoke to us about his passion for the tiger and the cat's role in

protecting the environment. He also stressed on the need for creating an awareness towards conservation.

"India's forests are disappearing at an alarming rate and very little attention is being paid to that sector. During Indira Gandhi's tenure as prime minister, the country saw significant improvements in conservation. She was passionate about the country's diverse forests and this burning passion in her saw rapid decrease in deforestation in the country...

"The period between 1990 - 2000 was probably the worst for Indian forests and wildlife. This was the time when the demand for animal products soared (tiger skin and bones, elephant tusks, rhino horns and so on) and this along with deforestation, wiped out a large number of tigers in the country...

"Once again an awareness is being created. Things are beginning to happen.

We must move forward at a fast pace. We are losing time..."

The event set me thinking. There is a lot for us Indians to feel proud about - richness and diversity of nature, variety and exclusivity in flora and fauna...

How important it is for us, as part of the country's younger generation, to realise whole heartedly that this diversity and exclusivity ought to be conserved in order that generations to come witness this splendour. Let us vow to carry the legacy of wildlife for many generations to come.



GIGGLES



Teacher : Shankar, can you give an example to explain the phenomenon that things expand on heating and contract on cooling?

Shankar : Holidays sir! During summer, our holidays expand to two months but during winter, they contract.

- Archana Natarajan, Std.XI,
Kerala Samajam Model School, Jamshedpur

Visvesh : Why are tomatoes kept in the refrigerator?

Raghu : Because refrigerators can't be kept in tomatoes!

- S. Naveen Kumar,
Std.IX, Sainik School,
Amaravathi Nagar



Teacher : Life giving oxygen was discovered in 1773...

Girish : What did people breathe before that, madam?

Patient : How long can a man live without brains, doctor?

Doctor : I don't know - how old are you?

- R.V. Selvakumar, Std.IX,
Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar



Vishnu : Mom, I actually ran up the street to stop a fight today.

Mom : That was really good of you. But who was fighting?

Vishnu : Ravi and me!

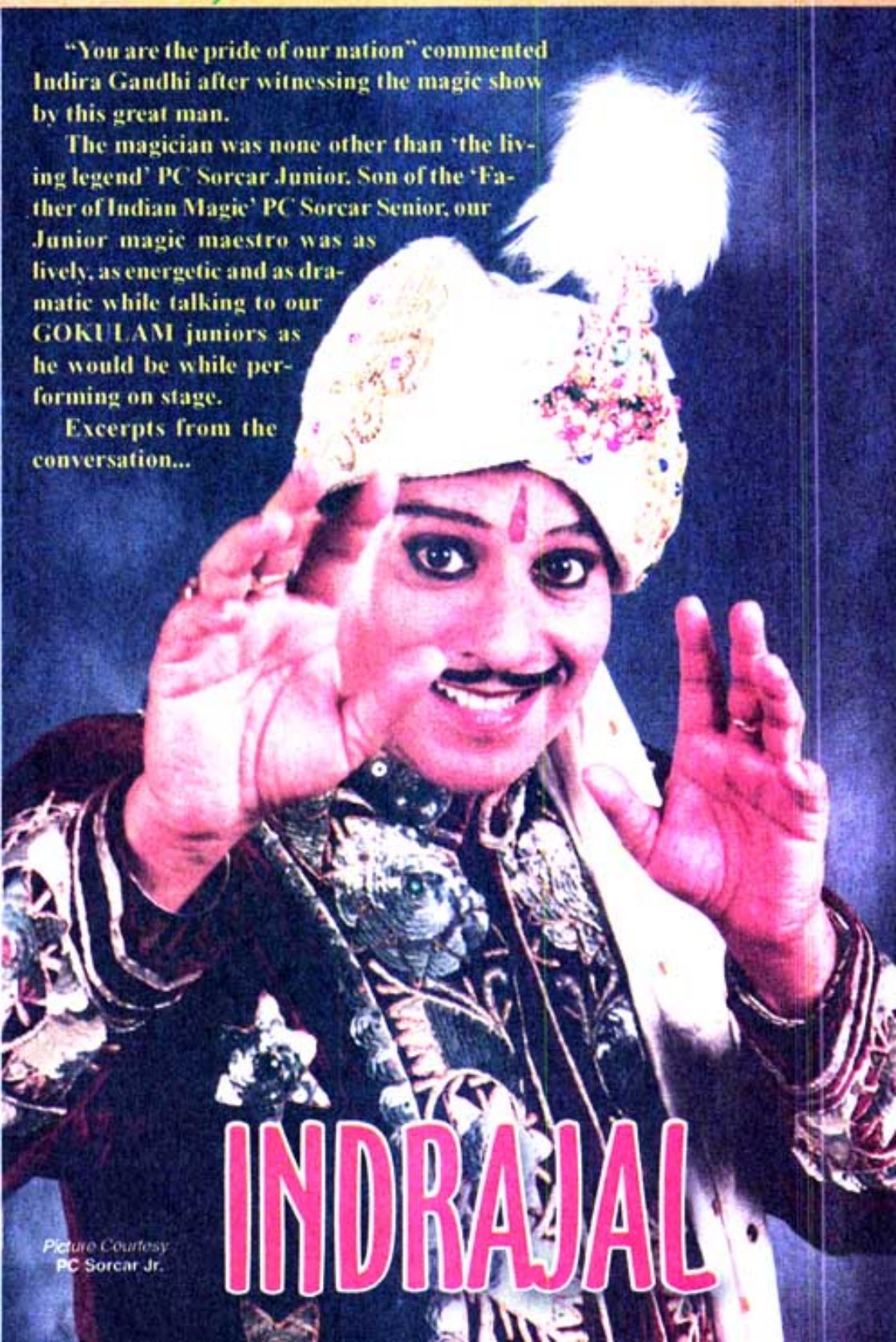
- R. Prasanna, Karur



"You are the pride of our nation" commented Indira Gandhi after witnessing the magic show by this great man.

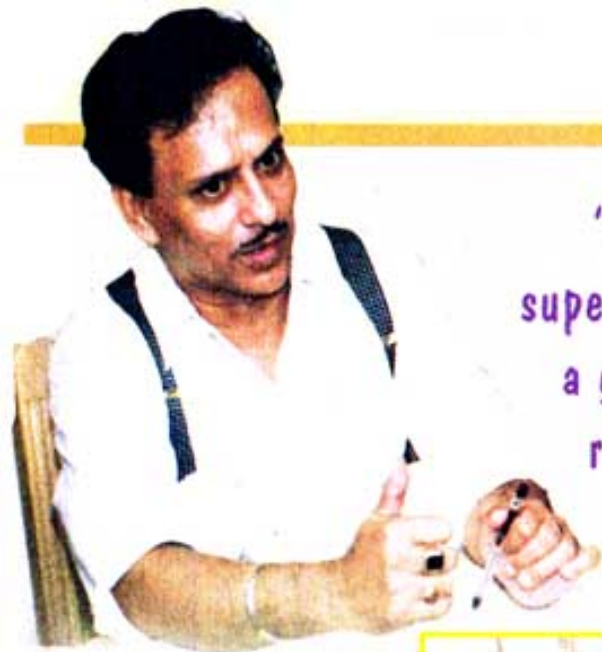
The magician was none other than 'the living legend' PC Sorcar Junior. Son of the 'Father of Indian Magic' PC Sorcar Senior, our Junior magic maestro was as lively, as energetic and as dramatic while talking to our GOKULAM juniors as he would be while performing on stage.

Excerpts from the conversation...



INDRAJAL

Picture Courtesy:
PC Sorcar Jr.



"A magician has no supernatural powers. He is a good actor doing the role of a magician..."

Gautham Ram : Your father was a great magician. Did you have interest in magic even during your childhood?

Sorcar Jr : I can proudly say that I was born a magician. I was born with a magic wand in my hands! When I was very young, I saw my father taking a sip of coffee and leaving the cup to float in air. I thought it was normal for any father to do so. In school, when I learnt that the fathers of my friends could not do it, I thought they were abnormal. Magic was so natural to me. Even now, when I am awake, I perform magic. When I sleep, I dream magic.

Sowmya : At what age did you become a complete magician?

Sorcar Jr : I think I am yet to become one. I am working towards it...

Sowmya : Do you sleep on a magic carpet or on an ordinary bed?



Sorcar Jr : (smiles) Generally I sleep on my magic carpet! But for the past few days I have been sleeping on my bed, because, the carpet became very dirty and I sent it to the laundry!

Gautham Ram : Once, you made the Taj Mahal disappear. But in reality, it can never be done. Then how did you do it?

Sorcar Jr : When can you see an object? When the light rays reflect on an object and reach your eyes you are able to see the object. Suppose, the light rays don't reach your eyes, naturally,

you can't see it. With scientific technology, I turned the reflected light rays from the Taj to somewhere else so that they didn't reach the eyes of the spectators. However, the spectators were able to see whatever was beyond the Taj Mahal. This made them believe that the Taj Mahal had vanished.

Vaishnavi : You may be perfect with your magic. But, there are about thirty people working on and off stage during the magic show. Even if any one of them did a small mistake, you will be in trouble. How will you tackle such situations?

Sorcar Jr : It has happened many times. I can't tell the audience that due to a mistake of someone in my troop, I am unable to perform that particular item and then go to the next. I have to manage the situation somehow. Once during the elephant vanishing trick, the elephant that was shown to the audience had to move back stage within a few seconds. But unfortunately the

his own reason for not moving from stage. The man who looked after the elephant missed to give him his usual share of banana that day. But he soon realized and bought a banana. The smell of the banana was enough to make the elephant move backstage. Then the show continued without any problem. With my experience, now I can tackle any difficulty with confidence.

Siddharth : Can you make God appear on stage?

Sorcar Jr : It is very easy for me to make someone dressed like Lord Shiva, Ganesha, Krishna or Goddess Lakshmi appear on stage from a box or a flower. You should always remember one thing in your mind. A magician has no supernatural powers. He is a good actor doing the role of a magician. In cartoon films, you see animals doing so many things, which they can never do in real. With the help of technology, they are made to do all sorts of actions for the purpose of entertainment. In magic also, science and technology are used to entertain people.

Vaishnavi : You are able to make things appear and disappear on stage easily. Can you do the same thing anywhere else using the same tricks?

Sorcar Jr : If I have to make something appear, I should have the object hidden somewhere. If I have to make something disappear, I should have some place to hide it. If that is possible, then I can



elephant refused to move from the stage. Having understood the situation, I began telling the audience that the elephant being a big animal, needed a longer time to vanish. The elephant had

make anything appear or disappear. Otherwise it is simply impossible.

Last night, I had a tooth ache and went to a dentist. I told him to do anything that will relieve me of the severe pain. The dentist remarked humourously, "Mr. Sorcar, you make so many things vanish during your show, but you're unable to make your own tooth pain vanish, and you have come to me."

But it's true that he is a better magician than me. He made my tooth pain disappear that same night!

Siddharth : When your wife cut your body into two parts with a giant saw, not a single drop of blood came out. How is this possible?

Sorcar Jr : If I was really cut into two parts during the show, can I be talking to you all now? It was only an illusion. I could have put some red paint on the saw to make it dramatic. But showing blood in stage performances is not permitted by law.

Sowmya : Can you teach magic to people who are interested in magic?

Sorcar Jr : If I give you some paint and a brush, can you become a painter? Magic is also like that. It should come from within. If you have that, then you can be trained. Only continuous practice makes one perfect. Basically magic is a combination of acting, dancing, music, rhythm, coordination, technology and stagecraft.

Siddharth : What about your wife and children? Do they also perform magic?

Sorcar Jr : My wife Jaishree is a talented artist. I have given her an im-

portant place in my shows. I have three daughters. The eldest has already been into magic. She shot into fame by doing a fire escape adventure. Six dynamite sticks were tied around her body and she was put inside a box. The box



was locked and set fire. When the box exploded, to everybody's surprise she came to the venue driving a fire brigade jeep! After her education, she will join me. My other two daughters are also interested in magic. Few years from now, we will be performing together as one big family.

Sowmya : What is your advise to the young magicians of tomorrow?

Sorcar Jr : Everybody is a magician. If somebody plays on the tabla very well, what do we say? "He does magic with his fingers." Don't we? Sachin does magic with his bat while playing cricket. So every person will have some special talent. My request to you all is whatever talents you have, try to develop it and become the best. Whatever was magic yesterday, is science today and whatever is magic today, will be science tomorrow.

Coordinated and Compiled by

S. Chandra Mouli

Photographs : Srihari

(Cover and inside pages)

Fingerprint Figures

You need :

- A pencil and an eraser
- White drawing paper
- Water colours
- Felt pens
- A palette or old plate to mix colours
- An old piece of cloth

Method : This is a brand new way to draw and paint. Instead of first drawing a picture and then colouring it, you do exactly the opposite for fingerprint figures.

Dab on 4 - 5 different colours (your choice) of paint on your palette. Mix a little water in each colour. Now dip your thumb into one colour and make a thumb impression on your drawing paper.

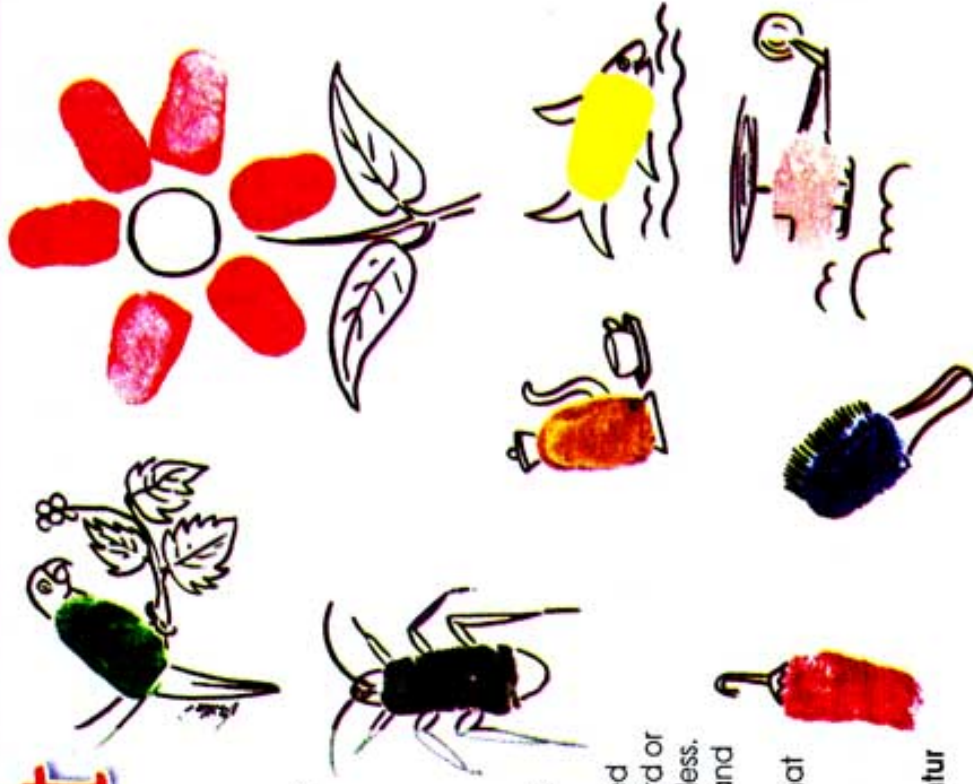
Quickly wipe your thumb dry with some old cloth and do the same thing with the other colours. Wait till the thumb impressions are absolutely dry.

Now see what you can make out of them. Using black or coloured felt pens, draw lines that will turn your thumb print into a fish or a bird or a frog or even Humpty Dumpty! The things you can make are endless.

You can fill up a large white paper with these fingerprint figures and make it into gift wrapping paper.

Do one fingerprint figure each on smaller sheets and make that your personal writing paper (letter pad).

You can also make greeting cards.



BEARDS

TEXT & ILLUSTRATIONS:
PRASAD IYER

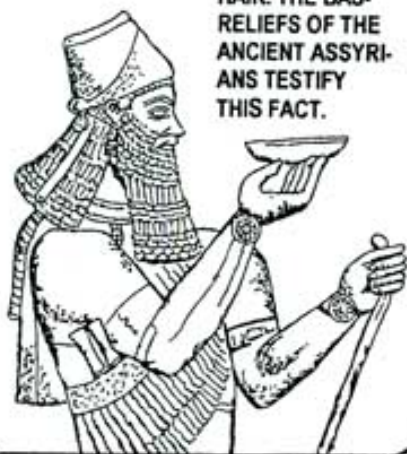
PRIMITIVE MAN WAS A HUNTER WHO DWELT IN CAVES. HIS SENSIBILITIES WERE NOT DEVELOPED SUFFICIENTLY SO AS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS LOOKS. SO HIS PHYSICAL APPEARANCE WAS UNKEMPT

AND HE WAS INVARIABLY BEARDED.



BUT AS MAN BECAME CIVILIZED, HE BEGAN TO CARE ABOUT APPEARANCES AND STARTED TO DECORATE HIS FACIAL

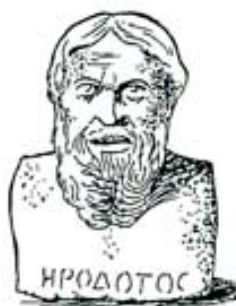
HAIR. THE BAS-RELIEFS OF THE ANCIENT ASSYRIANS TESTIFY THIS FACT.



THEIR NEIGHBOURS, THE PERSIANS ALSO COPIED THEIR STYLES AND CAREFULLY COMBED, BRAIDED AND CURLED THEIR BEARDS.



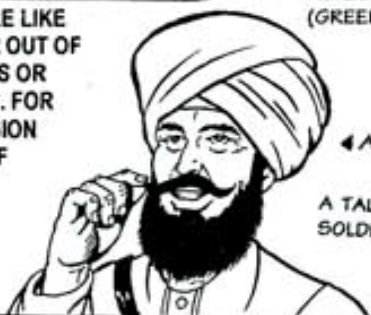
WE CAN MAKE OUT FROM THE STATUES AND ARTIFACTS RECOVERED FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES THAT BEARDS WERE IN VOGUE IN ANCIENT GREECE AS WELL AS IN THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS.



HERODOTUS ▲
(GREEK HISTORIAN)



EVEN TODAY MANY PEOPLE LIKE TO GROW BEARDS EITHER OUT OF RELIGIOUS REQUIREMENTS OR PERSONAL PREFERENCES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SIKH RELIGION FORBIDS THE REMOVAL OF FACIAL HAIR AND THE TALIBAN OF AFGHANISTAN FORCED THE MALE POPULATION TO GROW BEARDS.



◀ A SIKH

A TALIBAN SOLDIER ▶



HOWEVER, NOT ALL PEOPLE OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS SPORTED BEARDS. THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS LIKED TO BE CLEAN-SHAVEN. BUT THEY WORE FALSE BEARDS ON RELIGIOUS AND OTHER CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS – EVEN THE QUEEN WOULD WEAR ONE!



THE ROMANS TOO PREFERRED TO BE CLEAN-SHAVEN, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO COMPULSION TO BE SO...

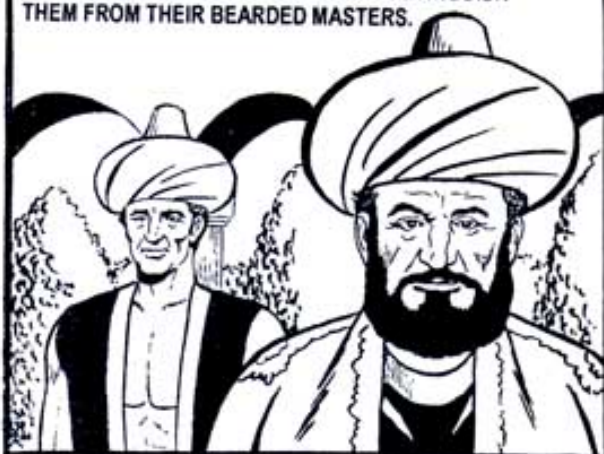


...WHICH WAS NOT THE CASE IN ALEXANDER THE GREAT'S ARMY. ALEXANDER FORBADE HIS SOLDIERS FROM GROWING BEARDS BECAUSE HE WAS CONCERNED THAT ENEMY WARRIORS MIGHT GRAB THEM BY THEIR BEARDS AND STAB THEM TO DEATH.



ALEXANDER THE GREAT
(356-323 B.C.)

IN MEDIEVAL TURKEY, SLAVES WERE FORCED TO BE CLEAN-SHAVEN IN ORDER TO DISTINGUISH THEM FROM THEIR BEARDED MASTERS.



PETER THE GREAT (1672-1725), ONE OF RUSSIA'S GREATEST EMPERORS, WANTED TO MODERNIZE HIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. SO HE TRIED TO DISCOURAGE THE GROWING OF BEARDS.



HE LEVIED A TAX ON BEARDS, AND MEN HAD TO PAY A STIFF PRICE FOR RETAINING THEIR FACIAL HAIR.



email: prasadivier2000@yahoo.co.uk

VARIETY, IT IS SAID, IS THE SPICE OF LIFE -- AND ALL THROUGH THE AGES MEN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CREATIVE. THIS CREATIVITY WAS ALSO APPLIED TO BEARDS AND OTHER FACIAL HAIR STYLES -- AS SEEN IN THE PICTURES BELOW.

FIG.1 PORTRAYS THE "VAN DYCK" BEARD AS POPULARIZED IN EUROPE BY THE DUTCH RENAISSANCE PAINTER, ANTON VAN DYCK (1599-1641). THIS TYPE OF BEARD WAS WORN BY MANY FAMOUS PEOPLE IN EUROPE OF THAT TIME, INCLUDING KING CHARLES - I OF ENGLAND (1600-49). FIG.2 SHOWS THE "SPADE" BEARD THAT WAS POPULAR IN EUROPE AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

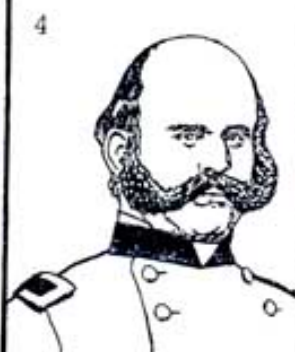
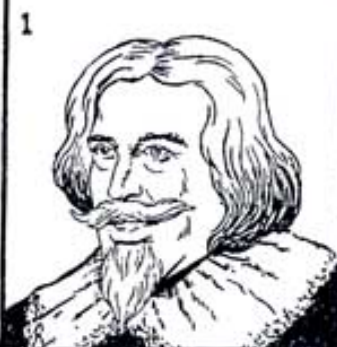


FIG.3 REVEALS AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN OF THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY SPORTING A PAIR OF "MUTTON-CHOP WHISKERS". FIG.4 PORTRAYS THE AMERICAN GENERAL A.E. BURNSIDE (1824-81) WHO INTRODUCED THE FACIAL HAIR-STYLE KNOWN AS "SIDEBURNS". THE WORD "SIDEBURNS" WAS COINED BY INTERPOSING THE SYLLABLES OF BURNSIDE'S NAME. GENERAL A.E. BURNSIDE FOUGHT IN THE U.S. CIVIL WAR (1861-65).

FIG.5 SHOWS A GENTLEMAN WEARING A "FARMER BROWN" BEARD WHERE ONLY THE UPPER LIP IS SHAVED. FIG.6 PORTRAYS THE FULL BEARD AS WORN BY THE CRICKETER W.G. GRACE (1848-1915). W.G. GRACE PLAYED TEST CRICKET FOR ENGLAND AND COUNTY CRICKET FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE IN THE LATE 1800S AND EARLY 1900S.



IN FIG.7 WE CAN SEE THE "IMPERIAL" BEARD THAT WAS WORN AND POPULARIZED IN FRANCE BY THE FRENCH EMPEROR NAPOLEON - III (1808-73) AND FIG.8 PORTRAYS THE "FORKED" BEARD SPORTED BY ADMIRAL TIRPITZ (1849-1930) - A GERMAN ADMIRAL OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-18).

● **B.R. Sushmita, Bangalore**

? How is the wax in the ear formed? Is it harmful to the eardrum? How can it be prevented?

! Sweat glands in the outer ear canal produce a soft brownish or yellowish waxy secretion called earwax. It is also known as *cerumen*. Physiologically it is one of the normal secretions in our body. Earwax helps to protect the eardrum by trapping dirt in it that would otherwise collect around the drum. The amount produced varies from person to person.

Earwax is generally cleansed from the canal by normal washing. Sometimes it builds up. The impacted earwax plugs the eardrum and interferes with hearing. This can result in other problems, such as infection.

Prevention : If you live in very dusty conditions which can trigger wax blockage, consider wearing ear plugs. If you tend to produce a lot of earwax, softening drops are available over the counter. Anything that has an oil base, such as baby oil, is also effective. Begin by using one or two drops in each ear daily for a week, then once a week, and then just once a month. This will keep the wax soft enough to work itself out of the ear canal naturally.

● **I. Srikanth, Hyderabad**

? I am a great lover of music. Do

you think it is safe to listen to music in a personal stereo (walkman) frequently?

! The intensity of sound is measured in decibel (dB). Prolonged exposure to loud sounds greater than 85 dB can cause inner ear damage leading to hearing loss. The average walkman on a setting of 5 out of 10 is 94 decibels. Check your walkman settings. If it has a sound intensity below 85 dB, you are safe to listen to music in it.

● **E. Ram Manikanda Prakash, Trichy.**

EAR CARE

? If any small object or insect happens to accidentally get into the ear, what should we do?

! Of the many types of insects that can get into the ears, ants, gnats, moths and cockroaches are the most common. Gnats get tangled in the wax and cannot fly out. Bigger insects cannot turn around; neither can they crawl backwards. They keep struggling and their motion can be painful and frightening. Gnats are easily washed out with warm water from a rubber bulb syringe. For a big

insect, the first step is to fill the ear with mineral oil, which plugs off the breathing pores of the insect and kills it. This takes 5 to 10 minutes. Then see the doctor to get the insect removed. Beads, pencil lead, bits of erasers, bits of plastic toys, nuts, seeds and dried beans are common objects that children put into their ears. Removal of them is a delicate task. Leave it to doctors to perform.

● **P.M. Sreelakshmi, Yelahanka**

? *Isn't it harmful to use an ear bud and clean our ears by ourselves?*

! Ear buds or cotton-tipped applicators should not be used inside the ear canal. It may tear the eardrum. Sometimes if there is any impacted earwax, it can be forced back against the eardrum and cause a hard plug. It will lead to a partial hearing loss, ringing in the ear and earache.

The best way to clean the ear is with a wet washcloth wrapped around a finger used in the outer curves of the ear and at the edge, or just inside the canal.

● **A. Kamala, Madurai**

? *How is the hard earwax removed in the hospital?*

! Removing impacted wax is a delicate procedure and caution must be taken to prevent injury to the eardrum. It is easier to remove earwax if it is softened with softening drops prior to the procedure.

The wax is removed by flushing the ear with water using a large metal syringe. The water that is directed into the ear flows along the outer ear canal, bounces off the eardrum and



flows along the bottom of the canal, cleaning out any wax deposits.

To be continued in the next issue...

Yamuna was waiting for Ramshekar at the door. "This is the first time I'm seeing you so worried," commented Ramshekar to the young mother of Ganesh.

"I have adequate reasons," said Yamuna. She took him to the room facing East.

It was a rare sight for Ramshekar. An otherwise active Ganesh was lying in bed with his eyes closed. Ramshekar placed his palm over the boy's forehead and felt the high temperature. The boy was uttering something. Ramshekar listened with rapt attention.

"Jacob, I will fail. My friends will laugh at me," murmured Ganesh.

"Madam, what has happened?" asked Ramshekar.

"Ganesh has fallen ill. He is running high temperature..."

Ramshekar knew these facts already. He queried further, "Who is Jacob?"

"A pen friend of Ganesh, born and brought up in Chicago. Atleast once a month they communicate through letters."

While his ears were attentively receiving the answer given by Yamuna, Ramshekar's eyes were continuously searching for something. His eyes suddenly stared at something. Yes, he had found what he wanted... the letter from Ganesh's American friend.

Ramshekar began to read the letter...

20.4.2003

Dear Ganesh,

I am sorry to learn from you that you have not done well in the Mathematics paper in your public examinations and you expect only 50 percent or so. I am sad to share a news which would shock you.

Once you had mentioned about your religious head. We too have religious heads. One such revered person is Mr. Philip. He is known for his perfect predictions. Yesterday when I went with my parents to see him, he gazed at me for quite some time and uttered a sentence. "Your Indian friend would fail in the examination, the results of which are awaited."

You are my only friend in India. First I thought not to share this information with you and panic you. However, I thought, a true friend is one who shares moments of joy as well as sorrow. Also, this may mentally prepare you for the unwelcome news.

With regards,

Yours truly,
Jacob.



them chrysanthemums, meaning Christ-flowers, or, more correctly, gold-flowers.

THE BET

Long ago, when Borhan had finished naming eleven of the twelve months of the Mongolian calendar after eleven animals, there were still two animals left, the camel and the rat. Which animal's name should he use, the camel or the rat?

Borhan did not want either of them to become upset and so, asked them to decide on their own.

The camel and the rat made a bet. The first to see the rays of the sun the following morning will have his name as the first year

of the twelve year calendar.

The next morning, the camel stood facing to the east waiting for the sun. The rat, after climbing up on the camel's hump and facing to the west, fixed his gaze at the top of the mountain.

The rays of the rising sun shone onto the top of the mountain in the west. The rat was the first one to see the rays of the sun. The camel was upset at having lost the bet and suddenly tried to stomp the rat to death. However the rat ran under a pile of ashes to hide and thus escaped.

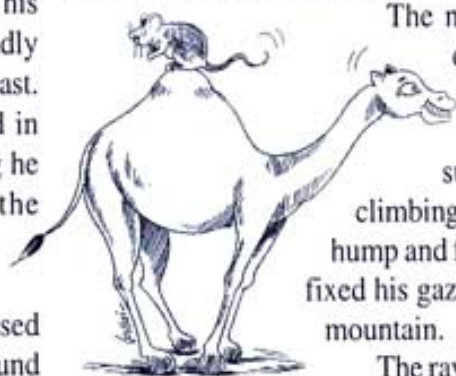
This is how the rat became part of the twelve year calendar and the camel did not.

SHORT AND SWEET STORIES

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM

In the Black Forest lived a peasant named Hermann. Going home one Christmas Eve, he saw a little boy lying in the snow. He carried him to his wife and children, who gladly shared with him their little feast. All night the boy remained in the hut, and in the morning he revealed himself as the Christ-child, and then vanished from their sight.

When Hermann next passed the place where he had found the child, wonderful flowers were growing out of the snow. Gathering a handful, he gave them to his wife, who called



Legends are made up,
perhaps, but they are often
very beautiful and interesting...

► The Yugoslavia Post issued a set of four stamps on 24.02.2003 on the theme of domestic animals, with the special slogan "why did you abandon us?"

► The Yugoslavia Federation (Montenegro and Serbia) issued a set of four stamps on 21.10.2002, on the theme of Folk and Customs.

The four stamps shown here depict the Folk of Serbia.

Source : Yugoslavia stamp news

STAMP SLIDES



The Faroe Islands Post issued a set of two stamps on 12.2.2001, to mark the 75th anniversary of Faroe Island's Red Cross. While the 4.50 Kroner depicts the Faroese Red Cross personality, the 6.50 Kroner depicts the active role of the Red Cross.

Source : Faroya stamp bulletin



The Faroe Islands Post issued a set of two stamps on 12.2.2001, to mark the 75th anniversary of Faroe Island's Red Cross. While the 4.50 Kroner depicts the Faroese Red Cross personality, the 6.50 Kroner depicts the active role of the Red Cross.

Source : Faroya stamp bulletin

I. A CLOSE LOOK

Take a close look at this number :
8 549 176 320. What makes it unique?

- Prasanthi Guntupalli, Std. VI,
Princess Elizabeth Primary School,
Singapore

II. YUMMY!

Match the dishes to their respective cuisine :

1. Idli Sambar - Parsi (A)
2. Dhokla - Bengali (B)
3. Vada Pav - Gujarati (C)
4. Rosagulla - Punjabi (D)
5. Sarso Da Saag - South Indian (E)
6. Dhansak - Maharashtrian (F)

- Radhika Sriram, Age 15,
A.F.G.J.J., New Delhi

MIND-BOGGLING?

III. TRUE OR FALSE?

This sentence contains seven words.

Look at the above statement. This is obviously false. The sentence contains only 5 words. Now write the opposite of that statement.

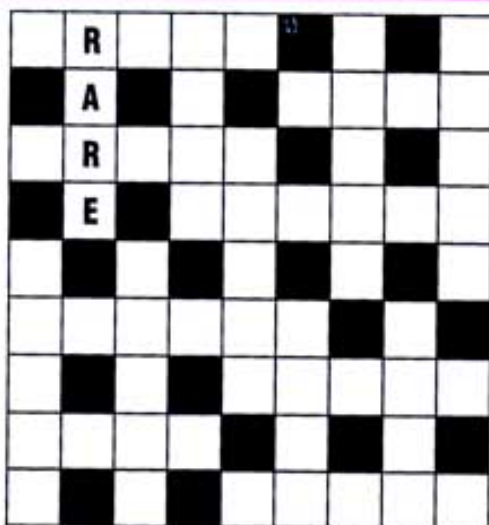
This sentence does not contain seven words.

This is incorrect. Why?

- M. Vinodh, Sankarankovil

IV. CLUELESS CROSSWORD

Instruction : No clues are given for this puzzle. The answers are given. You



are challenged to put the answers in the right place in the grid. One word has been inserted to give you a start.

Answers :

1. Black
2. Broom
3. Drop
4. Fling
5. Grime
6. Label
7. Lariat
8. Medal
9. Name
10. Plum
11. Pencil
12. Rare
13. Skill
14. Small
15. Task
16. Trade
17. Well

- P. Sai Deepak, Std. V, Saikor
English Medium School,
Korukonda

V. DIVIDE EQUALLY

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	X					
2						
3			O	O		
4			O	O		
5			X	X	X	
6						



Divide the above 6 x 6 grid into **four parts** such that :

- Each part has equal number of boxes
- Each part is same in size
- Each part is same in shape and
- Each part has one 'X' and one 'O'.

- **Kushal Moolchandani, Std.IX,**
Sharon English High School,
Mumbai

VI. GREAT FUN!

a) Enter

L	U	T	F
E	O	O	H
'S	T	T	E
G	E	R	E!

Exit

Enter the maze at the top left hand square and escape out of the bottom right by moving from one square to another horizontally, vertically or diagonally and visiting every square only once to **spell out** a phrase.

- Figure out how to arrange five four's and one plus sign so that the

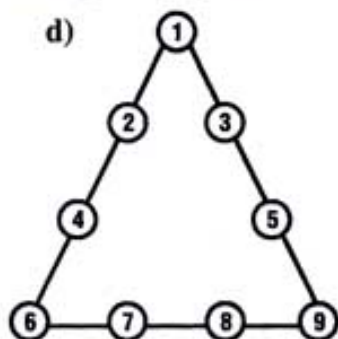
result equals 55.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 4 & & + & & 4 & & \\
 & 4 & & & & & 4 \\
 & & & & 4 & &
 \end{array}$$

c)

	16	9	14	
	11	13	15	
	12	17	10	

The numbers already inserted are from a magic 3 x 3 number square where each horizontal, vertical or diagonal totals 39. Your task is to insert the remaining numbers from 1 - 25 which have not already been used up in the center so that, each horizontal, vertical and diagonal line total 65 in the big 5 x 5 square.



There are nine numbers from 1 to 9 allotted on the triangle. To solve this problem rearrange the numbers one through nine, so the total of the four number's along any side of the triangle will be 20.

- **Aftab Rafique Kazi, Ratnagiri**

**ANSWERS
ON PAGE 51**

Bang! Ritvi, fourteen years old and studying in ninth standard, threw the ball hard with a spin. It hovered over the net, and Asha from the opposite team jumped up to grab the ball. Ouch! It hit her little finger instead and she dropped it. Ritvi's team won the game with that last serve. They emerged as the champions of the All India Final Throw Ball match. Yeah! her teammates threw their hands up with glee and lifted her up.

"Ritvi is so thin, wonder where she gets her strength from!" they thought, as they lifted her higher. Ritvi had

to the stage. The President handed over a large cup and a certificate to her. Click! Click! Flash! Flash! The cameras clicked and the television crew ran forth to shoot the event.

Tears flowed freely down her cheeks as Ritvi thought of the honour that she had just received. She had been the head of the throw ball team at school for the past two years. Her school had won the rolling trophy almost every year and they were the leading team in the whole of India. And she thought of her grandfather....

To think of the

RITVI AND GRANDPA ACHAPPA

inherited her mother's mannerisms and her father's looks. She had black curly hair, sharp observant eyes and a firm fist. She was coy and not too outspoken.

"Ladies and Gentlemen", the announcement rang through the open ground. Ritvi's heart began to beat fast, her insides felt uneasy as she waited before the dais to receive the trophy.

Ritvi's name rang through the stadium as she was called forth



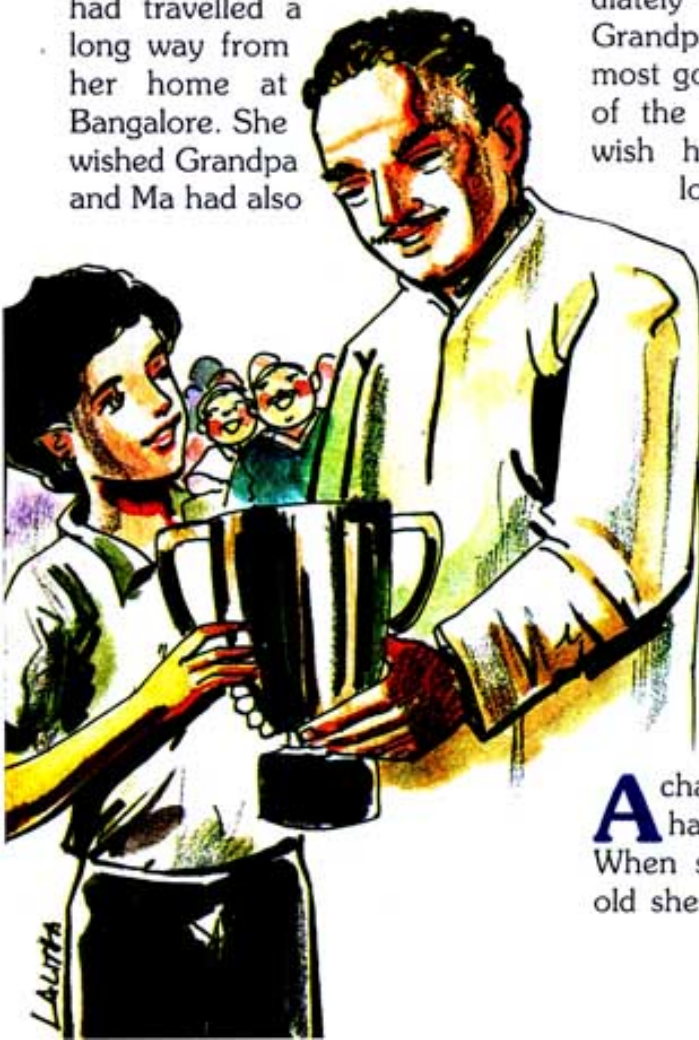
time when Ritvi hated to play! How Grandfather had coaxed her into playing

games, especially after father Abhaan had left for war. The riots in Mumbai had separated the family and her father never returned. Ritvi had been just five years old when she last saw him. Ritvi was too young to remember him. It was ACHAPPA - her grandfather who had looked after her, since then.

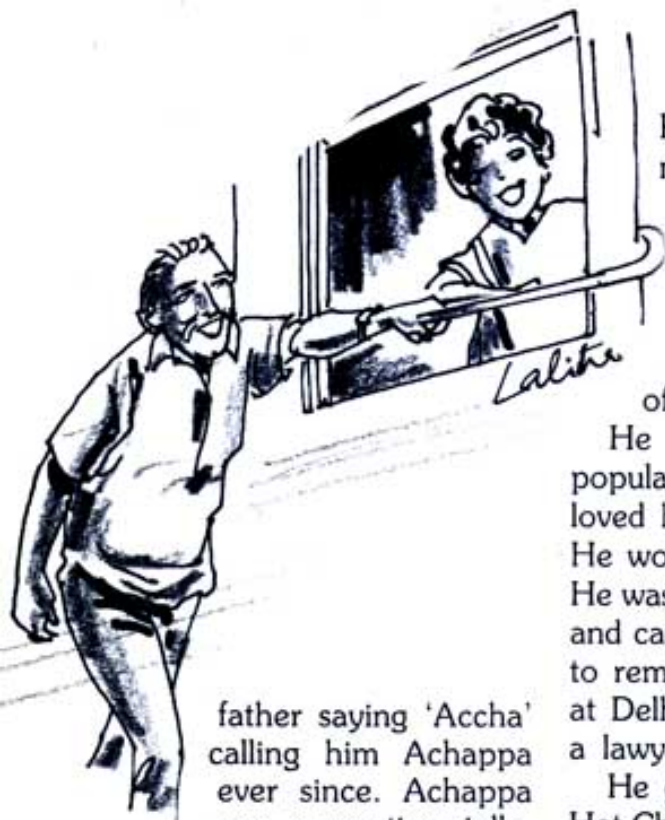
The match was being played in Delhi and Ritvi had travelled a long way from her home at Bangalore. She wished Grandpa and Ma had also

**Achappa was the name
Ritvi had given her
grandfather - a sportive,
jolly, fat grandfather who
loved his granddaughter
very dearly.**

been there to share this moment. She closed her eyes and immediately recalled the scene where Grandpa's walking stick had almost got stuck in the window sill of the train when he came to wish her goodbye. Oops! He looked so comical trying to run along with the train holding the stick at the other end.



Achappa was the name Ritvi had given her grandfather. When she was about two years old she would imitate her grand-



father saying 'Accha' calling him Achappa ever since. Achappa was a sportive, jolly, fat grandfather who loved his granddaughter very dearly. He had no other grandchildren and his wife had also died even before Lakshmi had got married.

Ritvi's features- a long nose and brownish eyes were exactly like her father's. Her mother Lakshmi worked as a teacher in a school nearby.

"Ritu kanna, Ritu Kutti, Chinni, Putta" - Her grandfather would call out to her. How she missed him at this momentous hour. Perhaps he is watching television. But no, that can't be! Both her mother and grandfather were not so fond of television.

Ritvi could not wait to return home. She had already packed her bag to leave by the

Karnataka Express that night. Her uncle came from the crowd to congratulate her. He had come to take Ritvi for a drive around Delhi and he had promised to buy her lots of ice cream and chocolates.

He then drove her to the popular ice cream parlour. Ritvi loved her uncle Ziaq very much. He worked as a lawyer in Delhi. He was her father's cousin brother and cared a lot for her. He chose to remain a bachelor and stayed at Delhi, to pursue his career as a lawyer at the Supreme Court.

He got her a big, tall glass of Hot Chocolate Fudge and a cheese cake. They ate and they chatted for quite a while. He asked her about her career, future plans and her favourite subjects and also gave her a few tips on how she could improve her sports and academic interests. He then took her to a book shop and bought her nearly ten books which he insisted she read over the year.

Tears welled up when it was time for the train to leave. Uncle Ziaq wished Ritvi luck and gave her a warm handshake through the window sill. She knew it would be quite a while before she saw him again.

The train left the platform and once she settled down, Ritvi forgot all about Delhi. Her friends

were all over her. All six berths were occupied by them and the teachers were in the next compartment.

They could not wait to have fun. They began to play and sing as the train zipped past the stations. It was a little late at night and Ritvi decided to read before falling asleep. She took one of the books her uncle had given her - *The Penguin book of Ghost Stories* by Ruskin Bond.

Ritvi was sleeping on the top berth and wanted to brush her teeth before falling asleep. She got down quietly as the others had already fallen asleep and tiptoed her way to the washroom with her toilet kit and towel. It was completely dark outside and the train was racing ahead.

It was already late in the night. Just as she finished brushing and turned around, a shadow fell upon her. It was the shadow of



a man who was coming from the opposite direction. All of a sudden, the train stopped and the lights went out. Ritvi froze.

Heavy footsteps of somebody running above could be heard and there was someone banging on the door outside. Two eyes were peering at her and there was someone breathing very close to her.

Aahhhh! Someone let out a shrill scream from the opposite side!

To be continued...



Kathalaya - The House of Stories
E-mail : kathalaya@mantraonline.com

The school bell rang and the boys morning."

and girls of the Seventh Standard, Green Fields School, ran to their classroom eager to see the new English teacher who was to take up their class. As soon as Ms. Gayatri entered the classroom, they all stood up and wished her "good

"What a surprise, she is so young!" whispered Kaveri.

"Not like our old Miss," said Darshini.

"She was so boring and

THE STORY OF ENGLISH

short tempered," said Shibani.

Ms. Gayatri ran her eye round the class. Thirty girls and boys looked at her apparently innocently but masking the curiosity they felt and the readiness to criticize her.

"I am your English teacher. You may call me Miss Gayatri." The teacher's voice was loud and clear. The class sat back to listen.

"I am going to take up English for you. And I would like to tell you something about the English Language to start with."

The class got ready to be bored.

"I will tell you a story," Ms. Gayatri began.

Eyes brightened. Everyone loves a story and a story in a boring subject like the English language (not litera-

I will tell you
a story



ture) and its grammar!

"A story Miss Gayatri?" asked Abhishek.

"A very interesting story," said Ms. Gayatri. "All languages have a story. And the story of the English language is fascinating. Spoken only in a tiny island during Shakespeare's time, it is today the most widely-known language in the world. English in the 18th century was not as well-known as Russian, German and most importantly French, the cultural citadel of the Western world."

"The best novels are the ones written in Russian," Abhishek interrupted.

All languages have a story.
And the story of the English language is fascinating...

The class called him Bookworm Abhishek. It was secretly whispered round the classroom that Abhishek read Shakespeare's plays instead of novels like Harry Potter, Goosebumps and the Animorphs series. And his classmates held him in awe.

Ms. Gayatri did not mind the interruption. She smiled at Abhishek and continued.

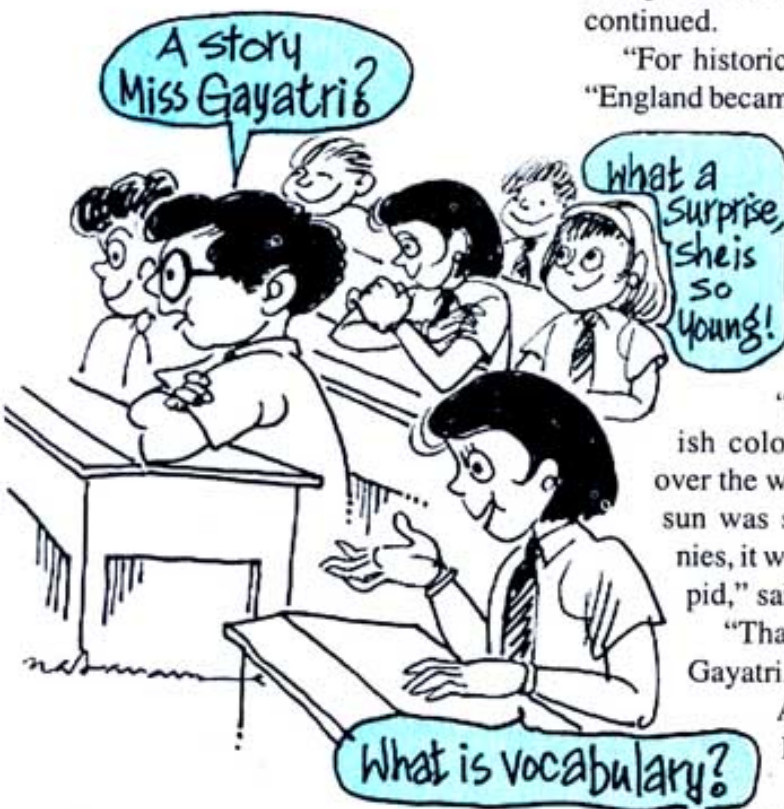
"For historical reasons," she said, "England became a colonial power and spread its language all over its colonies where the sun never set."

"What does that mean?" asked Kanchana.

"It means that the British colonies were spread all over the world, so that when the sun was setting in some colonies, it was rising in others, stupid," said Abhishek.

"That's right," said Ms. Gayatri. But she did not hear Abhishek call Kanchana stupid.

"When the English went and settled down



in America and Australia they, of course, took their language with them. And although England is not at all a rich and powerful nation today, it has a rich vocabulary."

"What's vocabulary?" asked Darshini.

It was then that Ms. Gayatri noticed that Shibani and Darshini were twins.

"Words, words, words," said Abhishek looking round the class to see whether his knowledge was appreciated. No one, however, noticed him.

Ms. Gayatri continued.

"English, today has spread and is spreading at an accelerating tempo. It is spoken by the largest number of speakers in the world."

"What about Chinese?" asked Abhishek, "they have billions of speakers." And he looked at Ms. Gayatri challengingly.

"You're right," said Ms. Gayatri, "but Chinese is spoken only in China and even there the different dialects

spoken are not quite understood by all the Chinese. Whereas English is spoken and understood in many countries of the world. English is used at all the international airports, it is the

language of international commerce, science, and even sport. English is important for India too and we are lucky that the British have left behind a legacy while they imposed their language on us. The demand for English to be taught in every school has been growing and many private schools have been started to meet this demand. The Japanese and the Koreans for instance, are at a disadvantage but they have introduced English in their schools as a second language and they are learning fast."

The school bell rang. There was no abrupt banging of desks or impatience to go out for a short break. Instead, the class was lost in thought as Ms. Gayatri picked up her books and said, "See you on Tuesday."

And who in time knows whither we may vent
The treasure of our tongue? To what strange shores
The gain of our great glory shall be sent
To enrich unknowing nations with our stores
May come refined with accents that our ours?

- Samuel Daniel, poet and historian (1562-1690)

"The major window for us to the outside world.
We dare not close that window."

- Jawaharlal Nehru in Parliament.

JOIN THE DOTS



I. SPOT THE FIVE DIFFERENCES

ACTIVITIES



II. WHAT'S WRONG?



III. HOW MANY BIRDS?

- ANSWERS :**
- I. Cap, diving fish, shoe lace, fish's fin, shark's eyebrow.
 - II. The boy's shadow must fall in front of him.
 - III. Eight

MARKS OF ANGER

Based on the story sent by :
Akila Kumaraswamy,
Std. VI,
Atul Vidyalaya,
Valsad, Gujarat

Illustrations : Mahesh

Ram was a businessman.

I have lost the deal again. Why should this happen to me always?

It's your temper. You'll never learn.

Ram confided in his friend and sought his advice.

A wise, old man lives in the neighbouring village. Go to him.

Next morning -

Sir! I always lose my temper and along with it my business. Only you can help.

Certainly I shall. But you have to stay here with me.

Sure, I will.

The old man continued -

Here is a box of nails. Whenever you get angry, hit a nail into this wall.

Ram followed the old man's instructions. Two days passed.

So many nails in just two days! Everytime you control your anger, pull out a nail.

After a week -

Not bad! I am learning to control my temper. I have only two nails left.

Next evening -

You have managed to remove all the nails. But just look at my wall!

Anger too is like that, Ram. Its easy to lose your temper. So, the nails went up in no time. It is difficult to control your anger...

That's why it took much longer to remove the nails.

Marks of anger are like these marks on the wall. They can't be easily erased.

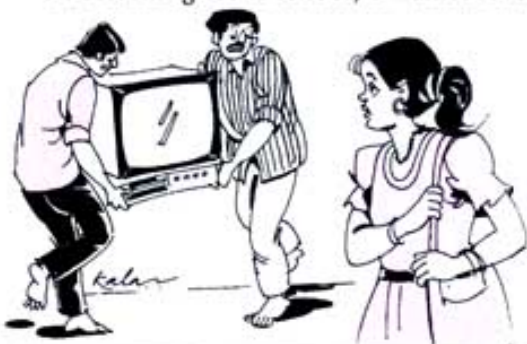
Sir! I have learnt my lesson. You have shown me the right path.

I was so disturbed one evening when I got back from school. I could not watch my favourite cartoon nor do my homework sitting in front of the television. I felt like a fish out of water

CHANGE IN ROUTINE

and soon found myself seated in front of the television in my friend's house.

My heart sank when our television was taken away by the mechanics. It would take a week they said. The next evening on returning from school, I walked out



to the verandah feeling depressed. I saw some of my friends playing *pandi* (hopscotch). Having nothing better to do, I soon began to play with them.

Little did I realise that two hours had passed, when my mother called me. I went home, had a wash, said my prayers and started doing my homework. Believe it or not, I was able to complete my work not only quickly, but also with total concentration.

The entire week passed much in the same manner. My evening routine changed. I began to feel more confident in class, more relaxed and cheerful too. I even fared well in that week's test. I suddenly felt more mature and grown up.

The television came home after a week's time and the connections were restored. But I found that it no longer fascinated me!

- S. Aarti, Std. VII, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Trivandrum

CHEATED!

Last summer, our family went on a tour of north India. After having visited

WINNERS OF THE HOLIDAY SPECIAL CONTEST

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Vijin V. Nair, Kalyan (E) | 8. Merlin M. Chacko, Mumbai |
| 2. Smruti Ranjan Samal, Nilgiris | 9. H. Dheeraj Raghavendra, |
| 3. Ashutosh Bhat, Goa | Hyderabad |
| 4. Suvarna Meenakshi, Hyderabad | 10. Shikha Prabhakaran, Nagpur |
| 5. Vineet Bugtani, Mumbai | 11. D. Prathyusha, Ghaziabad |
| 6. Anuj Bali, Chennai | 12. V. Bharathwaj, Ranipet |
| 7. M.J. Shashank, Bangalore | 13. M.S. Ashwini Vasani, Mysore |



Jaipur, we left for Ajmer. When we arrived at Ajmer Station, we were surrounded by auto drivers. They pleaded, "Saab, from morning, we have had no customers. If you avail our service we will be grateful." We were moved by their speech. Our inability to speak Hindi proved to be a handicap. After much difficulty, we managed to communicate to one of them that we wanted to visit the palace.

Having agreed to take us to the palace, much to our dismay, the autowala dropped us off at some vague circle.

We soon realised we had been cheated. The palace was no where in sight.

How we finally reached the palace with the help of an army man is yet another story.

- R. Sathya Prakash, Hubli

KITTY'S COLD

One day my pet cat developed a cold. I felt so sorry for her as I watched her sneezing continuously. With the intention of helping her, I rubbed some ointment all over her nose, just as my mother would do to me when I caught a cold. But obviously, the ointment was not meant for animals. Poor kitty started jumping all over the room. I realised what was happening to her. Her nose was



burning and she was terribly uncomfortable. I quickly washed her nose.

- C. Sarath Chandran, Std. IX,
K.V. Wellington, Nilgiri

"NOTHING SEEMS ALRIGHT!"

14. Tenzin Dakar, Tibetan Colony,
Karnataka

15. S. Anand, Delhi

16. K. Yaswanth, Nagari

17. Bhavana S. Hiremath, Hubli

18. Swati Sharma, Delhi

19. Punyo Robin, Lohit,
Arunachal Pradesh

20. C. Divya, Trivandrum

These children receive labels as gifts.

Our hearty congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all those who participated.

JOIN WINCY IN THE WEB

Life is not easy for a spider. Play this game to find out why.

Wincy the spider is safe and sound right in the middle of his web. You and one or two more of your friends, also little spiders, want to join Wincy.

The hazards are many, rewards a few. It is not going to be an easy journey to the middle. Place your counters, throw the dice and move...

Check with the key given and follow the rules :

KEY



A tug on the web. Feels like a fly. Yummy! It is one!

GO FORWARD ONE PLACE



Oops! Big Danger! Too Late! You've become your enemy's lunch.

START ALL OVER AGAIN



Heavy rain has damaged your web. Attend to it now.

MISS TWO TURNS



Strong winds blow. You are pushed back.

GO BACK ONE PLACE



Dirty dustbin. Glorious food. Feel Energetic after a good meal?

PLAY AGAIN



Clumsy work. Your web is broken. Stay back to fix it.

MISS A TURN



Watch out for the wasp's sting. See if you are lucky. If you throw 1 or 2, you manage to wrap the wasp in silk without getting stung. So,

MOVE ON

But, if you throw 3, 4, 5 or 6, you are doomed. You have a nasty sting.

GO BACK - START ALL OVER AGAIN.



Lovely sunny weather. Lots of insects around. Have a good day.

TAKE AN EXTRA TURN



'Participation Certificate' Special Prize

(July 2002 - June 2003)



Dear readers,

Gokulam enters its sixteenth year. We take this opportunity to thank all of you for your participation and contribution.

Gokulam is your magazine - a magazine for children by children. As always, we eagerly look forward to more and more from you.

You must be aware that participation certificates are issued to those of you whose contributions are published in Gokulam. You must also be aware that a special prize awaits the person who has received maximum number of certificates from us for the year.

The time has come now for you to count your certificates. Those of you who have received five or more participation certificates from us

(July 2002 - June 2003) please send in xerox copies of the certificates along with a covering letter giving details of name, class, school and residential address.

On verification at our end, we shall get back to the person with the maximum number of certificates for his or her photograph.

You know we can't wait endlessly. Hurry up and send in your letter along with copies of the certificates so as to reach us before **July 20, 2003**.

The scheme continues for this year too (July 2003 to June 2004). So, keep sending in your contributions, collect your participation certificates and keep them carefully. You may be the winner next year!

Editor

GROWTH AND KNOWLEDGE

The Plant without a bud
Will not flower - As with
A man without information
Will not bloom in life.

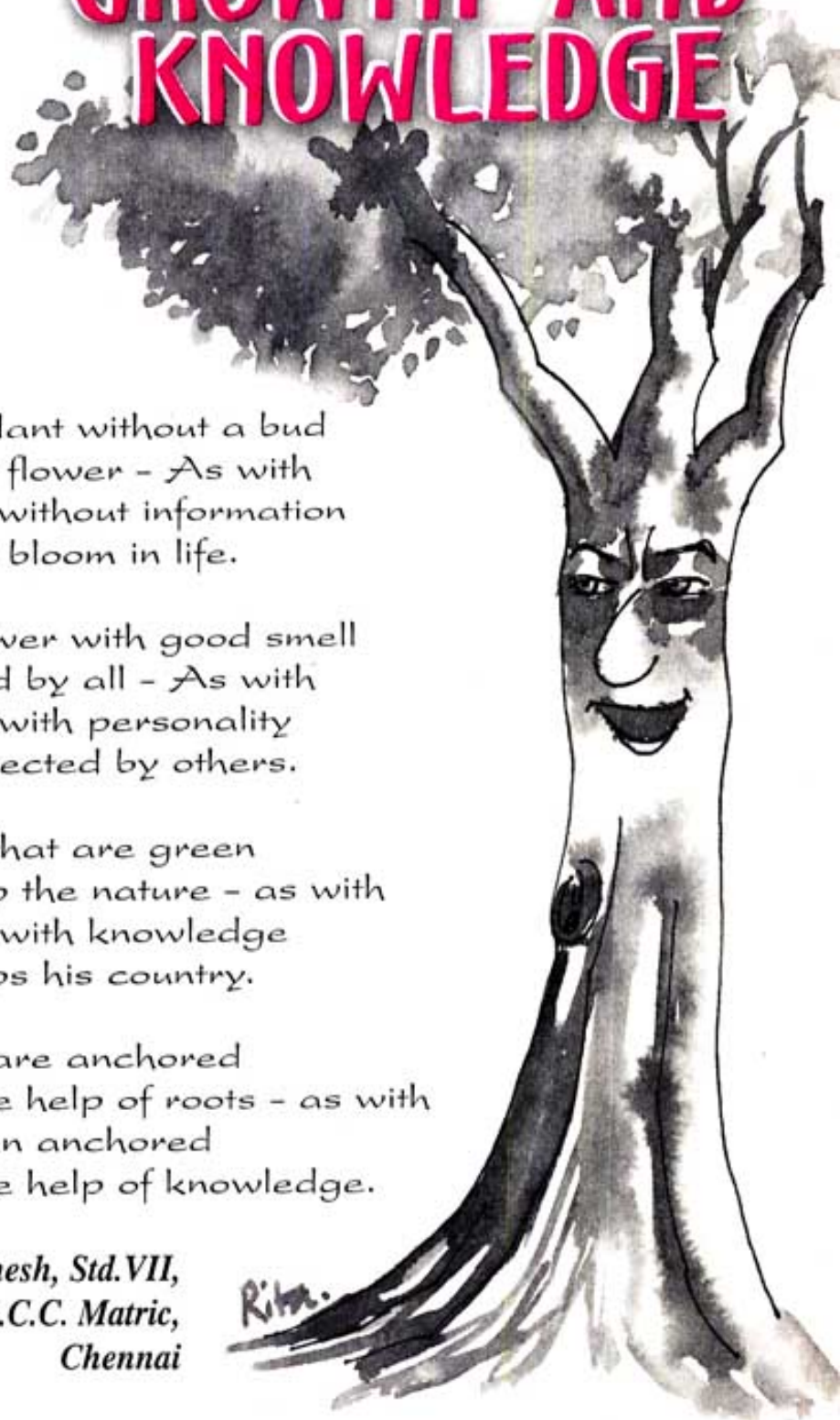
The flower with good smell
Is loved by all - As with
A man with personality
Is respected by others.

Plants that are green
Develop the nature - as with
A man with knowledge
Develops his country.

Plants are anchored
With the help of roots - as with
The man anchored
With the help of knowledge.

- S. Vignesh, Std.VII,
M.Ct.M.C.C. Matric,
Chennai

Rita.



Excerpts from a diary

Mr. Musafir loves travelling. He has the habit of maintaining a diary giving details of his tours. Following are the excerpts from his diary.

The city has not been named. Based on the clues available, try finding out the eight cities that Mr. Musafir visited on his last trip.



January 24th :

As I took a walk round this city on the banks of the River Nile, I understood why it is sometimes called the City of Minarets. The minarets in the mosques and other buildings were simply amazing. Took a taxi to see the Pyramids of Giza. Watching them, I admired the engineering skills of these ancient people.

January 27th :

What a picturesque city! The Table Mountain appears as if standing guard over it. Went to the waterfront. Took a motor launch to Robbens Island. As I reached the island, I felt I was a part of history and silently saluted the great leader who was held prisoner here for years - Nelson Mandela.



January 30th :

What hustle and bustle!! felt dwarfed by the magnificent skyscrapers. As I stood at Ground Zero, my heart went out to the victims of the September 11th terrorist strike.



Had a burger at McDonalds and went over to see the Statue of Liberty. Truly a breathtaking sight.



February 2nd :

Hey, this city reminds me of my hometown, Mumbai. Even the double-decker buses appear similar. Strolled along to Trafalgar Square. Bought some grains to feed the innumerable pigeons there. My next stop was at the recent addition to this city - The Millenium Tower, a marvel of modern engineering. Took an after-dinner walk and heard the chimes of Big Ben.



5. AMSTERDAM (Feb 4th), 6. ROME (Feb 6th), 7. ISTANBUL (Feb 10th), 8. KATHMANDU (Feb 12th)



February 4th :

Landed at Schipol Airport. Went on a boat for a Canal tour of this city, which seemed to have canals all over. In the afternoon, visited Rijks museum and Van Gogh Museum, where I could see the original paintings of masters like Rembrandt & Van Gogh. Bought a big bunch of tulips.

February 6th :

I am reminded of Tirupati because this ancient city is also known as the City of Seven Hills. As I visited the Colosseum, I could imagine how crowded this amphitheatre would once have been when gladiators fought with one another in the times gone by. My next stop was the St. Peter's Cathedral. What a magnificent structure, especially the paintings on the ceiling. Simply amazing!



February 10th :

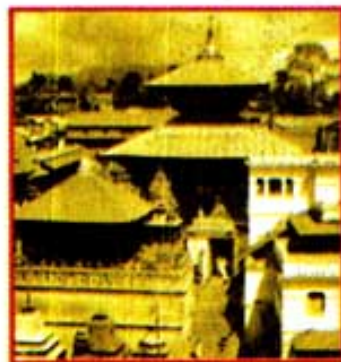
As I stood on the Asian side of this city, across the Bosphorous Strait, I could see the other part which lies in Europe. Had a look at the Blue Mosque. Although this is the largest city of this country, it is not its capital. I racked my brains to recall the old name of this city and late at night when I was in my hotel room, I got it - Constantinople.



February 12th :

My heart skipped a beat as the plane landed at Tribhuvan Airport. I vividly recalled the Indian Airlines hijack of the past which had its origin here. I was happy to be in this country, the only Hindu kingdom in the world. Visited the Pashupatinath Temple. Would have loved to stay here and explore the interiors of this country but homesickness had set in by now. Started checking out the flight schedule to Mumbai.

- R. Balasundaram, Mumbai



"I can't decide which career to pursue!"

"My brother is a successful doctor...does that mean I should become a doctor too?"

"I am so confused by too much of advise from so many well - wishers!!!"

The last decade has seen a tremendous change with respect to careers. Gone are the days when the only choices students had after completing school were Engineering, Medicine, Chartered Accountancy, B.Com, Law besides a few others. As today's student, you have endless career options open in front of you.

How can you go about choosing your career? On what basis should you decide which career to pur-

AN INTRODUCTION...

sue? The answer is a simple process called career planning.

What is career planning?

Career planning involves first, understanding yourself ie. what you enjoy doing the most (*Interests*), what you are good at (*Skills and Abilities*), how would you describe yourself as a person (*Personality*) and what do you value the most (*Values*).

Second, you require adequate knowledge of the different options in front of you. What is the nature of work, what are the skills that are required for a particular career and what kind of job are you likely to get. All this information should help you understand the career better.

However, the process will not be complete without connecting the two.

Making connections ie. drawing





Be proactive! You are responsible for shaping your career. You are responsible for the decision you make.

together the results of your self-assessment and your research on the available options, is the third part of the career planning process. It could result in a choice of one or more potential options.

Being clear about what you want to do is a vital part of the career planning process. You need a POA- Plan Of Action which will serve as a guideline and source of reference throughout your career planning process.

What do you have to do?

Simple. Identify the various decisions you will have to make in your career planning process and the time frame for making these decisions. Determine the resource people for decision making at various stages.

When do I start planning my career?

Career planning is a lifelong process beginning with high school and going right up to the end of one's working life. At every stage, there are "choice points" i.e., stages when a decision has to be made. In India, at the student level, there are three main choice points.

The first choice point is in standard 10 when you will have to decide on

which group to take i.e. science, commerce or arts.

The second choice point is in standard 12 when you will have to decide on your stream. This will in turn have to be based on your decision made at the first choice point - i.e., if you have taken science, then would engineering, medicine, or B.Sc be the best option for you and if B.Sc then, in which subject?

The third choice point is in your final year of graduation when you have to make a choice between going for higher studies or looking for a job. Higher studies would involve deciding on your specialization and looking for a job would involve preparing yourself for the job search process.

At each of these stages careful planning and attention is required. You are responsible for the decision you make; hence it is important that you make an informed decision. Your future lies in your hands. You are responsible for shaping your career. Be proactive! Don't just react to whatever chance or luck brings your way.

Will meet you again next month.

Feedback to : gokulam@careersindia.com

"That's surprising", snapped the teacher, and added sarcastically, "You are only seven minutes late, Pavan!"

Some students were grinning while others wore the 'there - they- go - again' look on their faces.



Pavan went red in the face, bent down, and stood speechless.

"What's your excuse for coming late today, my boy? Did you run behind the electric train all the way to school?" The teacher's shrill voice carried over to the neighbouring classes. The class stifled a giggle. Pavan looked to his sides to see if the headmistress was on her rounds. Then he would be in deeper trouble.

"You've the guts not to answer, don't you? Well, you will remain outside my class for the rest of the term. Prove to me that you can

come early to school at least on one day and I will let you in", challenged the teacher and returned to the lesson.

Now Pavan felt helpless. "It's not fair," he thought. "She doesn't know how far I come from, does she? I get up at 5:00 each morning, get ready to catch the 6:15 train which should reach me to Ram Nagar at 7:50. I can't do better than this. The earlier train leaves at 5:15. To catch it, I would have to wake up at 4:00. And mother would never

get up at such an early hour to cook lunch for me.

It's not my fault that the train reaches late everyday. I wish somebody would punish the engine

driver for being late everyday."

Endless are the troubles of travelling long distance by electric train. Pavan was the smallest boy in his class. When he boarded the

"PUNCTUAL" PAVAN

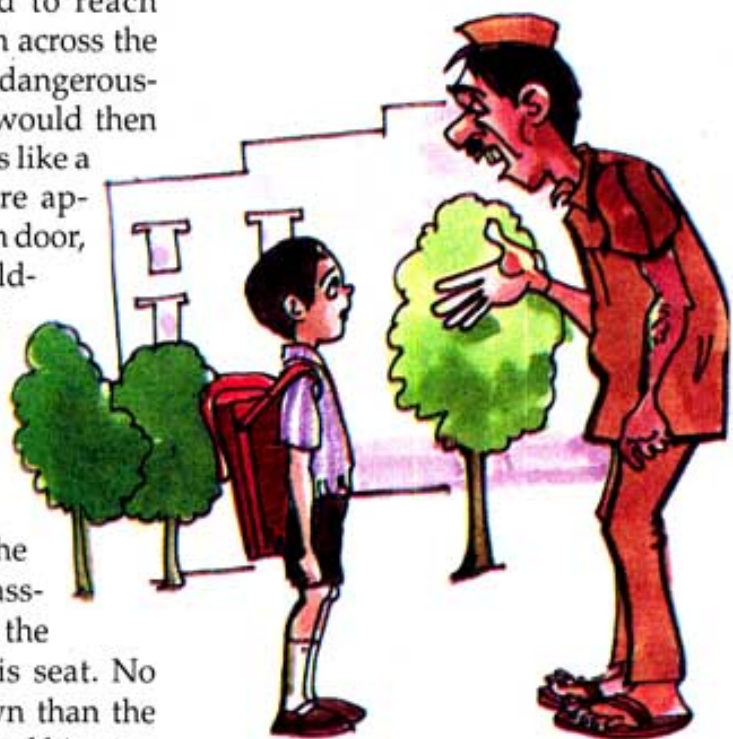


train with a bag on his back, his toes would get stamped by men and women of all sizes. This would soil his canvas shoes which he painstakingly polished during the weekend. His shirt, which his mother carefully inserted everyday, would come out in the back and stay inserted in front. Finally when he got off the train, he had to cross the road to reach school. He would dash across the road, weaving his way dangerously through traffic. He would then have to climb two floors like a bolt of lightning before appearing at the classroom door, panting only to be scolded by his teacher not only for coming late but also for his ruffled and shabby appearance.

The bell rang and the teacher left the classroom. Pavan went into the classroom and took his seat. No sooner had he sat down than the class bully, Raghu, started his usual chanting, "Punctual Pavan, Punctual Pavan." Everybody joined in, clapped, and fell silent on hearing the next class teacher climbing the staircase. Pavan struggled to control his anger and tears.

That evening Pavan asked

No sooner had Pavan sat down than the class bully, Raghu, started his usual chanting, "Punctual Pavan, Punctual Pavan." Everybody joined in.



Vignesh, his friend next door, for assistance. Vignesh was a year older and a more experienced traveller. He also went to Ram Nagar, but to a different school.

"Tell you what," Vignesh advised, "You are committing the mistake of taking the electric train. Try

this instead. Take the 6 am passenger which stops at Moti Market but not anywhere else on the way. Get off at Moti Market and take bus 16F from the Moti Market bus stand. There's one every fifteen minutes. That would get you to your school by 7:30 or so."

Wow! This was thrilling. He didn't even know that a 6 am passenger train existed!



up even before he had planned, and reached the railway station a full ten minutes before the train's departure.

He got down at Moti Market and reached the bus stop at 6:50 itself. A crowded 16F was just pulling out of the stand. There was enough time to take the next one. Or was there? He

Pavan was awake for a long time that night planning every move for the next morning like an army general. He rehearsed the entire sequence in his mind:

PLAN TO REACH SCHOOL EARLY

1. Leave home at 5:50
2. Reach railway station at 5:57
3. Get into 6:00 am passenger
4. Get off at Moti Market at 6:50
5. Reach bus stop at 6:55
6. Catch 16F bus to Ram Nagar at 7:10
7. Get off at Ram Nagar bus stop at 7:30
8. Reach class by 7:40
9. Be the first to arrive in class.

Perfect! This should work. He will be in the class before anyone else.

★ ★ ★

Next morning everything worked like clockwork. Pavan was

asked a man waiting for some other bus when the next 16F would start. "Not for the next twenty minutes, I think," said the stranger vaguely. Pavan flew into a panic and ran after 16F desperately waving and calling. The conductor took pity on the little boy and stopped the bus.

All along the bus journey Pavan could picture the surprised faces of his classmates. He would enter the class at 7:35 and would be sitting in his place quietly. He had heard that Rajkumar was the first one to enter the class everyday. He would saunter into the class like everyday and would get a shock. Soon Ganesh, Preeta and Radhika would arrive. They would gasp in surprise. Then the bully, Raghu would appear. He would apologize to him for having behaved so rudely the previous day...

When Pavan got down from the bus it was 7:30. He walked as fast as he could to school, his nose high up in the air. He had also begun to hum a tune unconsciously. Nobody, just nobody, could stop him from being well before time today!

Once the school was in sight, he was barely able to control his excitement. He ran towards the gate. His guess was right. "Aha! No one has arrived yet," he thought as he saw the empty school campus.

Pavan pushed the gate. It was locked. He pushed it a few times. It just creaked, but didn't open. Hearing the noise, the watchman appeared.

"Open the gate," demanded Pavan.

"What do you think you are doing?" demanded the watchman. "Don't you remember? Study leave begins today!"

EUREKA!

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES ON PAGES 26 & 27

I. A CLOSE LOOK

The number contains every numeral from 0 to 9 and the numerals appear in alphabetical order!

II. YUMMY!

1 - E, 2 - C, 3 - F, 4 - B, 5 - D, 6 - A.

III. TRUE OR FALSE

This is also false. Because, it actually contains 7 words.

IV. CLUELESS CROSSWORD

T	R	A	D	E		B		S
	A		R		P	L	U	M
B	R	O	O	M		A		A
	E		P	E	N	C	I	L
F		G		D		K		L
L	A	R	I	A	T		W	
I		I		L	A	B	E	L
N	A	M	E		S		L	
G		E		S	K	I	L	L

V. DIVIDE EQUALLY

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	X					
2						
3			O	O		
4			O	O		
5			X	X	X	
6						

VI. GREAT FUN!

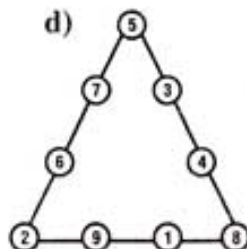
a) Let's get out of here!

b) $44 + \frac{44}{4} = 55$

c)

21	1	2	22	19
23	16	9	14	3
6	11	13	15	20
8	12	17	10	18
7	25	24	4	5

d)



KIDNAPPED!

3

Story &
Illustrations :
MUTHU

What if the
kidnappers ask for a
ransom? We must go
prepared.

I doubt it, uncle. I am
sure they are after his
secrets...

They might
even torture him
you know!

That's
possible
too!

Poor Grandpa! Do you
think he'll reveal his
secrets?

Never.
Scientists never
do that!

Hey, Jo! Do you know
anything about
it?



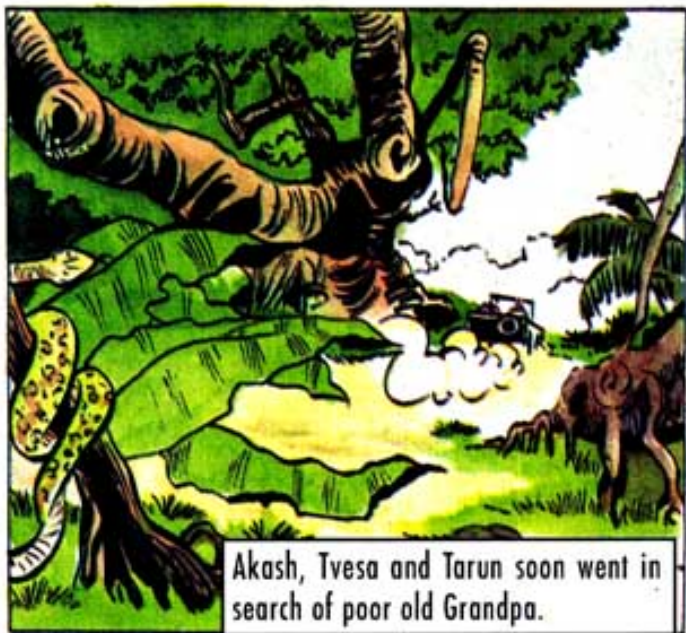
No, sir. But I noticed master was very excited last evening.

Let's get moving. No point talking amongst ourselves. We must find him somehow.

And quickly...

Can't go in this old junk.

This is certainly not junk. It has several built-in gadgets. Just get going.



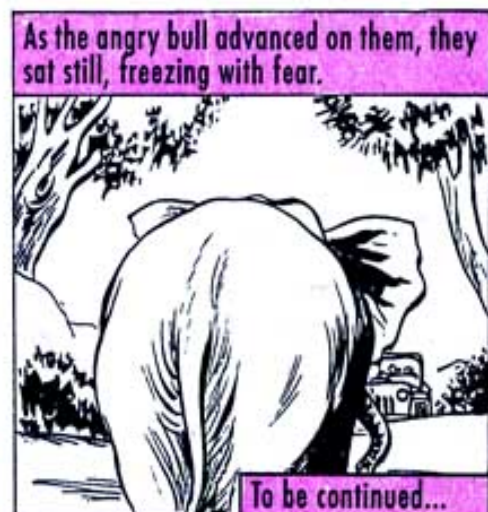
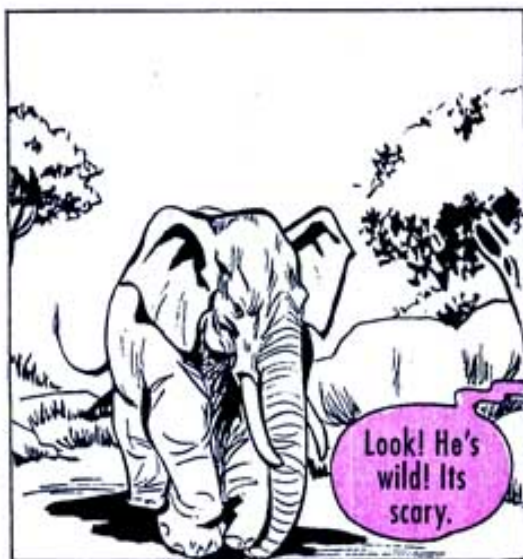
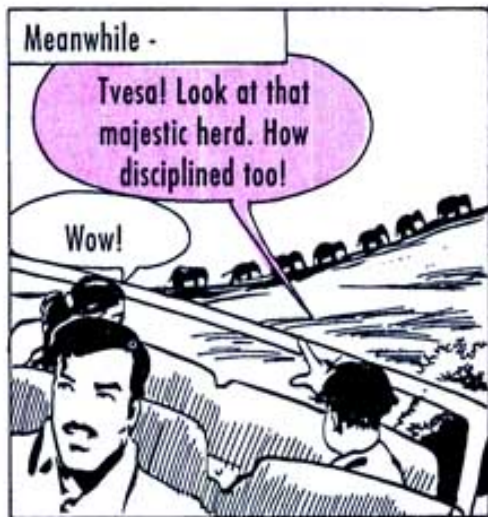
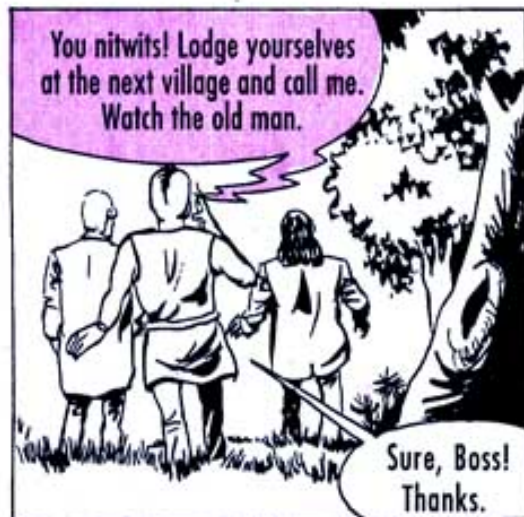
Akash, Tvesa and Tarun soon went in search of poor old Grandpa.

Tvesa! Look at this bag. It has Grandpa's name on it.



I wonder why he left it behind. Forgot perhaps.





The Great Wall of China was built to protect China from Mongol invaders. About the year 246 B.C., China was divided into small provinces. King Shih Huang Li united different provinces of China into an empire. To the north of the empire, lived barbaric Mongols. The King felt that at any time the Mongols might attack his empire. To protect China from this danger he ordered the construction of a huge wall. So a wall starting from Shanhi Kuan in the Bay of Pohai to Chiakuman in Kansu was constructed.

Unfortunately the King could not achieve his goal because the wall was broken in many places and the Mongols did attack. Even today, many parts of the wall are broken, and the purpose of constructing the wall could not be achieved.

The construction of the Great Wall of China started in the year 221 BC and it took almost 15 years for its completion. This is the longest wall of the world. It's length is more than 2694.4 kilometers. It's height ranges from 4.57 to 9.2 meters, while the thickness is 9.75 meters.

WHY WAS THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA BUILT?



Mr. Bharath was one day travelling by train, when he heard a small child describe the scenery to his father.

The little boy stood near the window and spoke with great excitement. "Dad! Everything looks so beautiful. Nature is at her best in these parts..."

The child continued to describe the streams, the lakes, the birds in the air, the cattle in the pastures, the crops swaying in the gentle breeze, the setting sun and the

The little boy stood near the window and spoke with great excitement...



A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

colours in the sky.

Mr. Bharath was so overwhelmed that he leaned forward to the child's father and said "How refreshing to see the world through the eyes of a small child."

The child's father turned slowly

and smiled. "Indeed it is, especially when it is the only way you can see it."

Mr. Bharath noticed that the child's father was blind.

- **Binita Biswas, Std IX,
Holy Cross Convent,
Kalyan**

THE LOGIC BEHIND THE LETTER

(Answer to case file 1 on page 22)

Jacob was born and brought up in U.S.A. But the letter contains patterns (each paragraph not starting from the margin of the letter but after a few spaces, 'Yours truly' on the right hand side of the letter, date on the right hand side, etc.) used by the British and not the Americans.

Every cricket fan in India would have been terribly disappointed with the poor performance of the Indian cricket team in the finals of the 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup. I too was one among the disappointed lot, although I do not live in India.

However, in my opinion, it is not fair on our part to be too harsh on the Indian team. After all, did they not play exceptionally well all the way to the finals? Don't you think that the players tried their level best and did not mean to play badly?

I am sure that our players felt more miserable than any of us did on that fateful day. Let us always encourage our team, applaud their effort and give them our full support.

-Prasanthi
Guntupalli,
Std VI,

Princess Elizabeth Primary School,
Singapore

CRAZY CRICKET

Cricket was invented by the British to while away lazy afternoons.

But today, everything has changed.

Cricket has become a game of craze and cricket lunatics are found in almost all parts of the world. These lunatic fans are ready to do anything for the players if they perform well and are waiting to blame them when they do not.

I agree that cricket is a very interesting game but that does not mean people should go crazy over it. It is equally important that other games like basketball, hockey, football and volleyball are also encouraged and popularised.

- G. Varun, Jai
Gopal Garodia
Vivekananda
Vidyalaya, Chennai

LET US BE FAIR



BE CAUTIOUS AND CAREFUL

Deaths due to road accidents are on the increase. The main cause for this is reckless driving, ignoring traffic rules

and regulations and indifferent attitudes towards adopting proper safety measures. It is important to drive slowly and carefully, to be aware of all traffic rules and follow them, to be comfortably dressed and to wear a helmet while driving two-wheelers. As



teenagers, when we start driving on the road, we do tend to be over-confident and even daring. We must be careful at all times.

- Archana Natarajan, Std X,
Kerala Samajam Model School,
Jamshedpur

Dear children,

We thought it would be a good idea to put forward a question to you every month to which you could reply giving your views. This will be in addition to the view points that are usually published.

The question (this will also be from you readers) and the answers (for or against) that are published will receive a special remuneration of Rs. 25/- each.

Make sure your views are kept short and crisp (50-60 words only). Send them in quickly, giving all details about yourself.

We shall begin right away.

- Editor

QUESTION FOR THIS MONTH

ISN'T THIS TOO MUCH?

I know that homework is necessary. But I don't like it when its given



in excess. Any diligent and determined student will not be able to cope up with his or her studies because of this extra burden of homework.

Over and above all this, is the long and boring syllabus. Projects, assignments, tests, exams, day-to-day lessons and homework... Isn't this too much?

I really think schools should take up this issue and do something about it. Don't you think so too?

- Tejaswi, Std VI,
KV Ballygunge, Kolkata

Name : **Charanya Chandran**

Age : 13

Address : 13/14 Bank Nagar,
Thirunagar Extn., Vellore - 632 006
Tamil Nadu.

Hobbies : Reading books, collecting pens, watching cricket, listening to music and mailing letters to my friends.

Name : **R.Nisya**

Age : 16

Address : 204,
Vakratunda Bhavan, Rajaji
path, Lane no.1 Dombivli
(East), Thane District,
Maharashtra.

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam and other books, playing indoor and outdoor games, operating and playing on the computer, making friends, drawing nature scenes and playing the casio.

Name : **R.Siva Charan**

Age : 12

Address : Door No. 9-7-8/5, Sivaji
palem, Pedawattair (post),
Visakhapatnam - 530 017.

Hobbies : Playing cricket, chess and carrom, watching T.V., cycling and reading books.

Name : **T.Sunilvijaiy**

Age : 14

Address : 1/16-A, Pioneer
Nagar, Jothipuram (Post),

Coimbatore - 641 047.

Hobbies : Playing cricket, badminton and carrom, reading, listening to songs and dancing.

Name : **Vidya R. Chandran**

Age : 14

Address : No.13, Navamani
street, Central Bank Colony,
Nagelkeni, Chromepet, Chennai
- 600 044.

Hobbies : Singing, listening to music, watching cricket and reading.

Name : **R. Jeffry
Copp**

Age : 9

Address : No. 22,
Nehru Street, Gandhi
Nagar, Pattabiram,
Chennai - 600 072.

Hobbies : Cycling, playing cricket, playing the drums, collecting cricket cards and stickers and playing computer games.

Name : **R. Vandana Rao**

Age : 16

Address : Door No. 6-5-521,
Andhra Bank Colony, Anantapur
- 515 004.

Hobbies : Reading books, collecting stamps and coins, painting, playing Basketball and shuttle and doing creative work like making greeting cards etc.

LET'S
KEEP IN
TOUCH

Name : **T. Shiva Gangadhar Reddy**

Age : 13

Address : H.No. 4-1-347/1/A4, Allampally Road, Vikarabad, Ranga Reddy (District), Andhra Pradesh 501 101.

Hobbies : Playing shuttle and football, drawing and reading Gokulam.

Name : **Shalini**

Age : 13

Address : Plot No. 57, Krishna Reddy Nagar Colony, New Bowenpally (R.R. Dist), Secunderabad - 500 011

Hobbies : Swimming, reading Gokulam and stamp collection.

Name : **R.Aishwarya**

Age : 15

Address : 10 B, 19th St., Hari Om Apartments, Nanganallur, Chennai - 600 061.

Hobbies : Dancing, singing listening to music, playing and watching TV.

Name : **Subhojit Banerjee**

Age : 15 years

Address : 58, Bhagirathi lane, Serampore, Hoogly, West Bengal - 712 202

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, playing cricket, watching T.V. and making friends.

Name : **Abdul Khalil Qureshi**

Age : 16

Address : Pathan Pada, Bargarh (PO & Dt), Orissa - 768 028.

Hobbies : Reading comics and playing cricket.

Name : **K.Abiram Vessaagan**

Age : 14

Address : No. 23, Puspha Nagar 1st street, Chennai - 600 034.

Hobbies : Stamp collection, drawing, meditation, watching nature, collecting G.K. information.

Name : **A.V.S. Bhagya Sri**

Age : 11

Address : GA II, No.23, H.No. 918, S.B.H. Colony, Gaddian-naram, Hyderabad.

Hobbies : Singing, reading stories, writing letters.

Name : **K.Manjunath Bhat**

Age : 13

Address : New no. 39, Elumalai Street, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600 045.

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, collecting stamps and coins of different countries, drawing, watching T.V. and playing cricket.



BROTHER'S PLAY

"Mom!" I am going to my friend's place." I heard my brother scream. In a few minutes, as he passed me, I saw a small chit fall from his hand.



I bent down and picked up the chit. Wondering whether the chit had fallen accidentally, I began to read it. "Pizzas are your favourite, aren't they? Go now to your bed."

Curious to know what all this meant, I walked up to my bed. I found a similar chit.

"Simply follow the clues. You'll find your pizza."

Clue 1 : Puppy Dog's Tail



I was right. The next clue was on my pet puppy's tail. Highly amused by the whole thing, I walked up to Puppy.

"You're on the right track."

Clue 2 : Fans That Eat Are Cool



I looked at every fan in the house but found nothing. While on the verge of giving up, it just occurred to me! The table fan in the dining room! The fan that 'Ate'. I found the chit.

"You're almost there."

Clue 3: Check the Mail Box and You'll Find It.



I ran to the mail box feeling thrilled and highly excited... dying to get my hands on the pizza.

I found it. I found the PIZZA and along with it another note...



"Congrats for finding the PIZZA and many thanks for lending me your bicycle!"

I stood there confused and amused at my brother's play. I ate the PIZZA anyway!

Story : Suhas Chandran, New Horizon Public School, Bangalore

Joanne Kathleen Rowling was born in 1965 at Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire in England. Her father was an aircraft engineer. Her mother was of half-Scottish, half-French descent.

Rowling started writing at the age of six. When she started the Harry Potter series, she already had two unpublished novels in her drawer. She says that Harry Potter came to her mind like "a bolt from the blue." In 1990, when she was stuck in a train, his character came fully formed to her mind. This very magical moment inspired her to create the magical personality of Harry Potter. She spent the next five years creating the plots for each of the seven books, one for every year of Harry's secondary school life.



A BOLT FROM THE BLUE

in Portugal, where she had gone to earn her living as an English teacher and had married a journalist. However the marriage proved to be disastrous but a baby girl, Jessica was born. Leaving Portugal, she came to Edinburgh in 1993 to stay with her sister, Di, a lawyer.

Rowling was living in a mouse-infested, two-room flat when she started her first book. She used to write a lot in Edinburgh cafes.

There was another problem that Rowling faced. She could not find any publisher willing to publish her book. She was told that the plot, like her sentence

construction, was too complex and that the book looked outdated with fairies, dragons, wizards and old fashioned ideas. But Rowling left no stone unturned. After much effort, she found a publisher, Bloomsbury. She also obtained a grant of \$12,000 from the Scottish Arts Council which helped her to start her second book.

Today, Rowling has become world-famous, with Harry Potter being a best seller.

- Sneh Pradhan, Std.IX,
MHMS, Kolkata

Rowling started writing the series

**This young woman has turned
more children to reading
than any other living author!**

GOKULAM

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(Signature)

* Offer valid only until August 31, 2003

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Your friend

Yourself

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To

The Circulation Manager

GOKULAM

'Kalki Buildings', 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 097. E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com



Dear Grandma,
I love my sister very much but she often quarrels for silly things like not sharing my sketch pens with her, etc. She disturbs me while I'm studying and my mother always supports her saying she's much older to me.... Please help!

- Swathi Priya, New Mumbai

Dear Swathi,

Both you and your sister should realise that sharing is a joy. Once you taste this happiness you will never want to give it up. So, say good bye to selfishness and start sharing. But whatever is lent should also be returned in good shape, within a specified time. To begin with, you may share a book or pen. Later you will start sharing your ideas, hopes and even your secrets! Allot some time to talk to your sister in a friendly manner. Ask her about her day at school, her friends, her attitudes etc., Make her feel that you care for her. Express your love for her and she will respond in equal measure.

★ ★ ★

I start doing something with enthusiasm but after some days I lose interest in it. Advise me as to how to complete the task that I undertake.

- Prajakta Nair, Pune

Dear Prajakta,

Before you start on something like attending com-

puter classes or taking music lessons or even a hobby, ask yourself a few questions: Is this really what I want?

Will this make me happy? Is there a purpose? If so, what is it and so on. Take a decision based on the answers you get. Once your mind is made up, act with determination. I am sure you won't feel sorry or give up in the middle of something if you follow these simple rules.

★ ★ ★

I often get angry for silly things. I cannot control myself. Later I start crying. Please tell me what to do.

- Kaniyamudhu, Kalpakkam

Dear Kaniyamudhu,

Your problem is a common one among children. If they don't get what they want, like say, an icecream, they are upset and even throw a tantrum! Later, they cry because they realise that they have acted in a silly manner and feel sorry for themselves. Getting angry and allowing your blood to boil over silly things doesn't achieve anything except spoiling your health, both mental and physical. Prayer and meditation



The power of positive thinking!

helps a lot to overcome anger. Sit on a mat cross legged and straight. Close your eyes and repeat to yourself slowly, "Om Shanthi, Om Shanthi..." Continue for a minute or two during which time think of nothing else except a bright shining "Om" in the center of your forehead between the eyebrows. In a few days you would have overcome your sudden bursts of anger.

I am a spend thrift and I spend my pocket money very soon. My parents scold me for this. Please help.

- B. Sherlin
Ownita

Dear Sherlin,
There is an age old saying in



STARTING WITH ENTHUSIASM...



Tamil, which demands that we keep an account of even those things which are thrown into the sea! So, start keeping an account of your pocket money. Go over your accounts and check if you have spent wisely. Remember the proverb, "a penny saved is a penny earned." You should also know that money begets money, that is, if properly invested. A wise person saves for the future. A spend thrift is



always in want and is miserable. Your future depends on how you train yourself now.

My mind is full of negative thoughts and I always think negatively. What am I to do?

- Abhishek H. Nair, Awarpur

Dear Abhishek,

Positive thinking builds self confidence and the will power to achieve. Negative thinking leads in the opposite direction. Say to yourself as often as you can : I will finish my homework for today; I will revise for my exams; I will find sometime to help mother; I will play for an hour and be happy and so on. Very soon positive thinking will become a habit and you will enjoy it's power. Even sulking misfits will become bright young achievers!

Love,
Grandma

Alphonse Roy answers...

● Radhika, Kolkata

Could you tell me what inspired you to become a wildlife photographer?

Hai Radhika,

One small correction. I am a cinematographer and not a photographer. A photographer takes still pictures, while a cinematographer takes moving pictures with a motion picture camera.

My father used to serve the Southern Railway as Chief Photographer. He used to be an avid wildlife photographer as well. He liked being outdoors and especially in the jungle. This meant we had the opportunity to go out on

three wildlife holidays in a year - quarterly, half yearly and the long holiday after the final exams. This regular visit to the forest and the curiosity to see animals in their wild habitat developed an interest for wildlife in me. Later on after school, I did a course on Cinematography. On completing the course, my father suggested that I should try to become a wildlife cinematographer, as there was very little competition in that area. I liked his suggestion and I am happy I obeyed his words.

● Krishna, Nagpur

Is there a wide scope for wildlife studies in our country? If so, which

Exciting Expedition

Star
Rendezvous



are the best institutions that one can study in?

There is scope for wildlife studies in India. More importantly, there isn't a single profession which can boast of a better quality of life. To the best of my knowledge there are four institutions where one can learn wildlife science - Wildlife Institute of India in Chandrabani, Deaden Salimali school of Ecology in Pondicherry, AVC college in Mayiladuthurai and Centre for Ecological Sciences at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

● **Naveen, Chennai**

Please narrate one or two of the best moments of your career.

I had for a long-time heard and read about the beautiful bird the great

hornbill. One day I went to the famous Anaimalai sanctuary in search of the bird. After three weeks of searching, we spotted a nest nearly 60 ft high into the canopy. We spent another two weeks before I could get the bird on film. The unique thing about this bird is that the female finds a hole in a tree, goes inside and seals herself with a clayey kind of material. She leaves a small hole on the clay wall so that the male bird can pass some food to the female and its young ones. The amazing thing is the trust the female bird has on the male bird when she shuts herself from the outer world. The first shot I got was the parent bird carrying figs for the female inside the nest. It is such a beautiful bird that I consider it



as the best moment in my life to have seen the nesting behaviour of the horn-bill in the wild.

● **Lavanya, Trivandrum**

While in pursuit of spotting an animal, to get it on film must be frustrating. Your comments please.

Lavanya, it is never a frustration. You need a lot of patience while pursuing an animal to record its particular behaviour. It is the same as pursuing any other career.

● **Abhishek, Thane**

Which is the rarest species of animal that you in person has managed to get on film?

Unfortunately in today's world most of the species are becoming rare and nearly extinct; hence it is difficult to list rare animals. Instead I will tell you about my favourite and yet rare animal, the Lion Tailed Macaque. It is a rare monkey endemic to the western ghats and found nowhere else other than south India. If you can travel to Anaimalai sanctuary or drive up to Valparai, a small hill town beyond Pollachi and Azhiyar, you are sure to get a good sighting of it.

● **Rahul Vasan, Chennai**

I am just eleven years old. I want to become an expedient like you. Can you help me with your advice and suggestions?

Rahul, as you live in Chennai you should become a member of a nature club. The clubs I recommend are Madras Naturalist Society and the WWF that runs some kind of a program for kids, which you could partake. I also suggest that you buy yourself a bird book and start identifying the birds around your school and house. If possible ask your parents to take you to sanctuaries in and around Tamilnadu. One request is please keep at least three days in the forest ; otherwise you might come back saying there isn't any animal in the forest. You must remember that the wildlife in the forest is all free ranging animals and they are not caged for display like in a zoo.

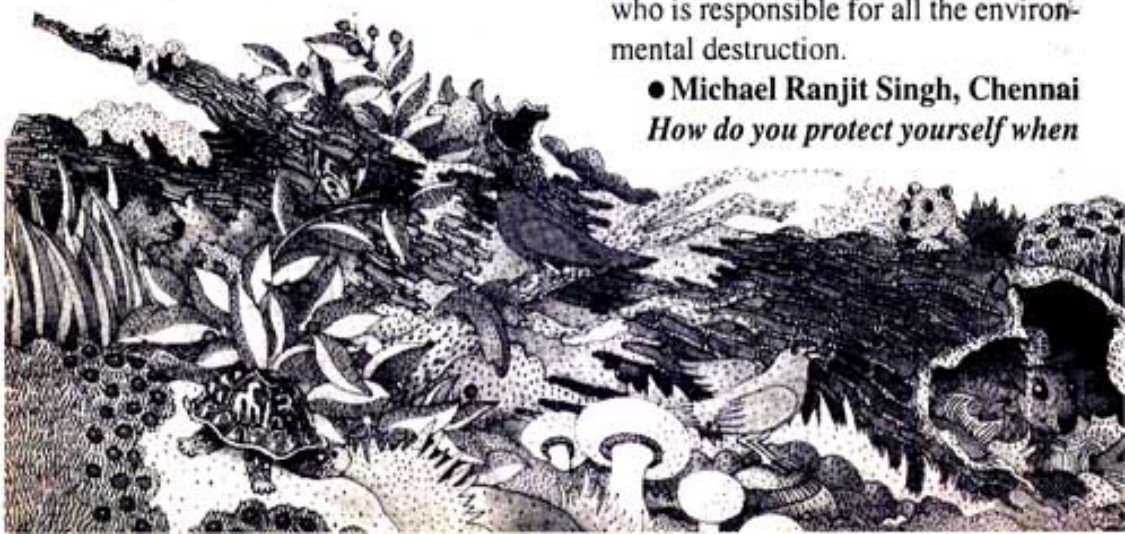
● **T.S.Swathi, Bangalore**

Many wild animals are nearing extinction. Besides man, what other factors play against these endangered species?

It is MAN, MAN and only MAN who is responsible for all the environmental destruction.

● **Michael Ranjit Singh, Chennai**

How do you protect yourself when



you go out to photograph wild animals?

What do I protect myself from? The truth is, after so much of destruction committed by man, it is the animals that have to think about protecting themselves from man. To answer your question straight, I don't carry any weapons to the forest, because I believe that in a situation of confrontation, it is fair to loose a human being rather than kill an animal to save a human being.

● **P. Uthara Priyadharshini, Thane**

What should I do immediately when I spot a rare species?

First confirm the species and then inform the State Forest Department or otherwise contact any wildlife researcher/scientist who might be working nearby. They in turn will guide you further.

● **Gokulam asks...**

What dress code would you advocate for a person getting into a wildlife park?

Surely not the reds and yellows. You should always wear muted dark colours like OLIVE GREEN or DARK BROWN. Your goal should be to camouflage yourself so that you are not spotted by the animal. This will give you comfort of observing the animal for a long time without the animal knowing that you are there. You should

learn to be patient and avoid all unnecessary talks inside the forest, only then can you listen to the sounds of the jungle. Also don't use perfumes or balms or eucalyptus oil etc as the smell can drive away the animal before you even spot them.

How different is it in India, when compared to other countries, in terms of exposure, technology, funds or topography?

I have met a lot of people in UK and USA. They all seem to be very well exposed to latest developments in wildlife sciences and other forestry management techniques. Undoubtedly their financial outlay for protection of animals is far higher than what we have, but the sad thing is they don't seem to have as much wildlife as we do. Unfortunately in our country we don't have much money for managing wildlife or even to produce wildlife films but we are blessed with a rich diversity of wildlife. We have every thing to be proud of, from the rare Snow Leopard in the Himalayas to the Asiatic Lion in Gujarat, the Golden Langurs in the North East, the Tigers in Central India, the Nilagiri Thar and the Elephants in Kerala, and finally the Hornbills and the Lion Tailed Macaque in Tamilnadu. If you are interested in wildlife, India is the best country to live in.





Letter Box



Gokulam is my favourite magazine. The June 2003 issue was real good. I enjoyed each and every page of it. The cover story 'Stop! Look, Proceed...'

solutely superb. It contained everything for a holiday. Just one regret though - Please make *Gokulam* a fortnightly.

- **Aniket Venkatraman,**
Nagpur

Many of my jokes, puzzles, snippets etc. have been appearing in *Gokulam* and I have received participation certificates for these. I do not know what to do with these certificates. Please guide me.

- **R.V. Selvakumar,**
Amaravathi Nagar

Dear Selvakumar,

Pl. read the announcement on page 42.

I read the jokes (Heavenly Humour - Down to earth) in the June 2003 issue. It was very humorous, but was it necessary to make fun of our Gods and mythological characters?

- **B. Ramkumar, Coimbatore**

was informative and educative.

- **Sahul Hameedh, Madurai**

I could not help giggling aloud when I read the jokes in the June issue.

- **Vinodhini, Cochin**

I am eagerly awaiting the part II of the HP contest with a hope against hope to win it.

- **B.A. Nikhila, Bangalore**

I really thank you for publishing my world cup puzzle. I felt very happy because that was my first contribution to *Gokulam*.

- **R.T. Priya Dharshini, Madurai**

The June issue of *Gokulam* was ab-

I was shocked to see the cartoons under the heading Down to Earth (June issue). It has shown the Hindu Gods and mythological characters in a sarcastic and taunting manner. I feel that you owe us an apology.

- **N. Balasubramanian, Chennai**

Friends,

The cartoons were presented solely from a humourous angle. We had no ulterior motive whatsoever. However, if in the process, we have hurt the feelings of some of our readers, we are sorry for the same.

- **Editor**

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Harry Potter Two-Part Contest

**Done with Part I?
Ready to tackle Part II?
Go on...**



Read the rules and regulations carefully and make sure you participate.

★ This is a two - part contest. The first part appeared in the June 2003 issue. The second part is right below.

★ You must send in your entries for both.

★ The entries must be sent together (Part I and Part II)

★ Cut along the dotted line and staple the two entries together before you mail them to GOKULAM, 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,

Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 097.

★ No photocopies will be accepted. No entries by e-mail.

★ All questions must be answered and all details required must be complete.

Part II

How much do you know?

This is just a simple quiz. Answer the questions. But make sure you get them all right! Flip the page and enter your answers.

**Hurry!
Rush in your
answers.
Last date :
20.07.2003**

Bumper Prize!

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

for three lucky winners.

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CHENNAI.**



How many different fouls in Quidditch?

Where are broomsticks kept when they are not in use?

Who teaches Herbology at Hogwarts?

What are professor Lupin's initials?

What sort of wood is used to make the handle of a Nimbus 2000?

Who was the only girl in the Ravenclaw Quidditch team?

What's the password to open the Prefects' bathroom?

Who was caught while smuggling flying carpets?

What is the colour of the serpent found on the Slytherin banner?

How many hands did the Weasley family's clock have?

Which department is Professor Sinistra in?

What is the colour of the robes that members of the Hufflepuff house wear while playing Quidditch?

What creature is born from a chicken's egg and hatched underneath a toad?

How many points are awarded to a team for catching the Golden Snitch?

What potion is used at Hogwarts for curing colds?

Fill in details about yourself :

Name : _____

Class _____ School : _____

Residential Address : _____

_____ PIN _____

The war with Iraq is long over, but the invaders are unable to find till date, any evidence of weapons of mass destruction manufactured or stored by Saddam Hussein. Both Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair have come in for heavy criticism by the opposition in their respective countries for waging an unnecessary war based on wrong information given by intelligence agencies.

Meanwhile, the occupation of Iraq by U.S.A. has become a reality, though U.S. leaders say that their objective is to restore order first and then democracy. Of course the conquerors will share the spoils of war in the form of cheap oil exports to their respective countries. The U.S. is pressurising India to send troops to help police the occupied country. Since India did not approve of the invasion itself, how can it support the U.S. in policing the people of Iraq?

Will it be Vajpayee or Advani who will lead the party during the forthcoming parliamentary election? A controversy raged recently when Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, the national president of the B.J.P., talked about Advani leading the party to victory. There was a furore and now in a complete reversal of his earlier stand, Venkaiah says that Vajpayee is the undisputed leader and that he will lead the party during the polls.

It looks like there will be a lot of realignment of parties before the parliamentary polls. Ajith Singh who lost his ministerial berth in the central cabinet is sure to leave

• Advani



• Vajpayee



• Stalin



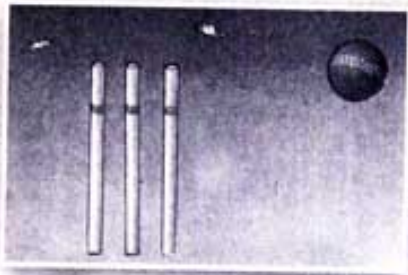
• Alagiri



PARTY POLITICS AND POLITICAL MURDERS!

the N.D.A. along with his party. It also appears that the D.M.K. will leave the alliance and the chances of A.D.M.K. joining it is increasing.

The rivalry between Stalin and Alagiri the two sons of Karunanidhi, chief of the D.M.K. party, has been steadily increasing over the years. Recently, Mr. Kiruttinan a staunch supporter of Stalin was brutally murdered. The finger of suspicion naturally points to Alagiri. It is said that he planned the murder and used a few of his party men to execute the plan. Several D.M.K. cadres have been arrested including Alagiri. Whatever the final outcome, it is sad that party politics should lead to crime and punishment!



Sports Talk

So what is this mystery behind Tamil Nadu's failure to produce Test cricketers?

This World Cup, for the first time ever, there wasn't a single player from Tamil Nadu in the Indian squad. The natural conclusion would be that Tamil Nadu isn't producing the talent that it once did.

SO CLOSE YET SO FAR

Yet Tamil Nadu made it to the Ranji Trophy finals this year (2003), and came within an ace of going one step further and being crowned champions. No doubt they are a strong side. The batsmen include S Ramesh, Hemang Badani, and Sridharan Sriram, all players who have cemented themselves in the team over the years. In the bowling department, T Balaji has been the most successful bowler in the domestic season in India.

There could be several reasons, but the most popular one is this. Tamilians have been accused of having the 'crab mentality'. When a player from Tamil Nadu does well, he makes no effort to encourage his fellow state-mates to perform as well. How far this is true, I am not sure, but it is a fact that the selection committee for the national side has representatives from each zone, and it isn't often that a Tamilian (with stiff competition from Hyderabad and Karnataka) gets on that committee. And when he does, he is usually impartial. An admirable quality, but when every other selector is looking to promote players from his own zone, Tamil Nadu players don't get much of a look in.

In the case of S Ramesh, he did very well for India, had one disastrous tour of Australia (In which, I might add, every player with the exception of Tendulkar did badly) in which he fractured his finger, missed out on the South African tour for injury reasons, and was never seen again after that. It is true that Hemang Badani was given a fairly long stint, and he never truly took advantage of it. People who have seen him in full flow will recognise the fact that no one who watched him play for India would ever realise just how unbelievably talented he is. Sridharan Sriram was probably the least successful of them all. He was given several chances and he never scored. However, he is known to be a player more suited for the longer version of the game, and all his chances came in the One-dayers. Perhaps an opportunity to play Test cricket might see him come good. T Balaji has been the worst done by. He bowled exactly three overs for India. Surely he cannot be judged by eighteen deliveries?

Winning the Ranji trophy might have made all the difference. If they had gone on to win, who knows, we might have two or three Tamil representatives in the Indian tour of Australia.

- Abhinav Ramnarayan

Star Rendezvous

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hard-working, sincere, perseverant...

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- Last Date : 23.07.2003
- Only one question allowed
- Write only on a postcard
- Mention details of your name, age, class and school. Also give your residential address.

Bravest among the braves

Kadhar Hunnu Bhandu Marnu Ramro
(It is better to die than to be a coward)
- Motto of the Gurkhas

In both World Wars, soldiers of the Indian Army fought with glory for the British Empire and brought laurels and fame to their regiments. Some of them fought with extraordinary spirit of courage and valour and their individual

Ist Battalion of Garhwal Rifles was badly wounded in his arm and head. Nothing seemed impossible though, for this man of undaunted courage. He moved ahead and pushed himself forward unmindful of the wounds inflicted on his body.

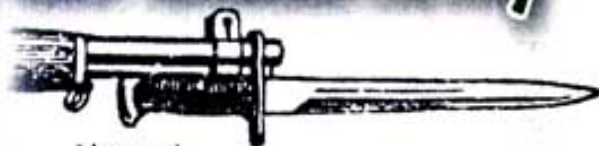
The Germans had captured the



* Naik Darwan Singh Negi



Victoria Cross Winners of the Indian Army



* bayonet

gallant action won them the highly coveted and prestigious Victoria Cross Award.

Heroes of World War I

It was the opening year of World War I - the year 1914.

Naik Darwan Singh Negi of the

trenches. With the sole aim of retaking these captured trenches, Darwan Singh went around every corner of the battle field and flushed out the enemies.

Naik Darwan Singh Negi was presented with the Victoria Cross in France, by His Majesty King George V.

For the attention of our readers...

Criss - Cross Corner Crossword contest entry will appear in the next issue

Yet another feather adorned the cap of the Gharwal Rifles when rifleman **Gobar Singh Negi** won the Victoria Cross posthumously.

The action had taken place on the 10th of March 1915 in 'NEUVE CHAPELLE' in France.

Gobar Singh was one among the bayonet men accompanying a bombing party. Wielding the bayonet with great skill, Gobar Singh killed many Germans and made several of them surrender.

The year was 1916. In the Battle of Wadi, the 9th Bhopal Infantry withdrew from position due to heavy onslaught from the Turks. During this withdrawal a number of wounded soldiers were left behind. Amongst them lay Colonel Thomas the commanding officer, badly wounded in his thigh.

Sepoy Chatta Singh turned to assist the Colonel. Unmindful of the heavy firing from the enemies, this young sepoy dressed the colonel's wounds, carried him to a trench and shielded him from Turkish fire arms with his own body for more than five hours - all single - handedly.

This brave and gallant hero was only as young as 29 when he was awarded the decoration.

The II World War too saw several Indian soldiers proving their mettle. We shall read about some of them next month.

- Compiled by : **R. Surendran,**
M.A. - Defence and strategic studies.

The individual gallant action of some of the soldiers of the Indian Army won them the highly coveted and prestigious Victoria Cross Award.

THE VICTORIA CROSS

Instituted in the year 1856 by the Empress of Great Britain Queen Victoria, the Victoria Cross is considered till date as one of the most highly coveted awards that can be won by any soldier, sailor and airman fighting on behalf of the British Empire. The cross is awarded for the outstanding act of bravery shown in the presence of the enemy.

The Decoration :

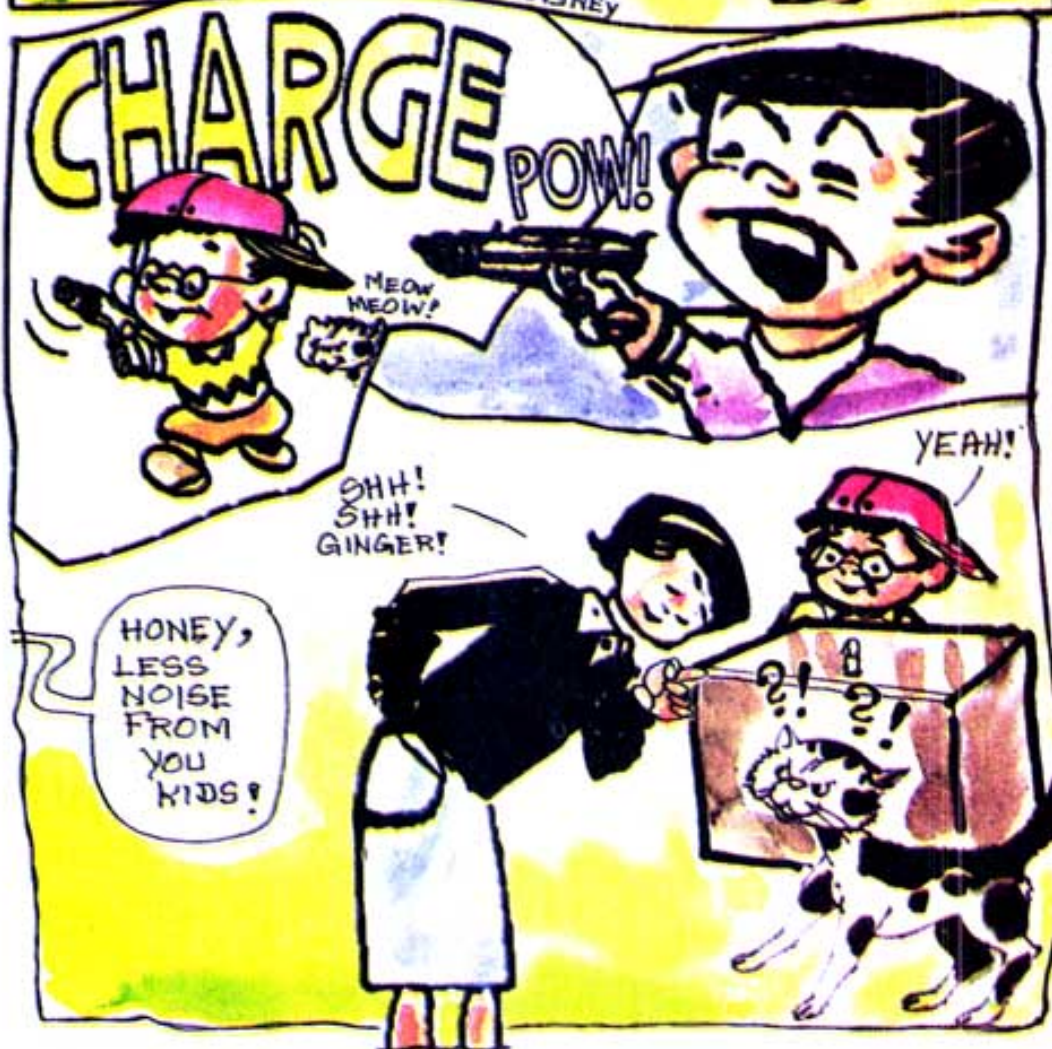
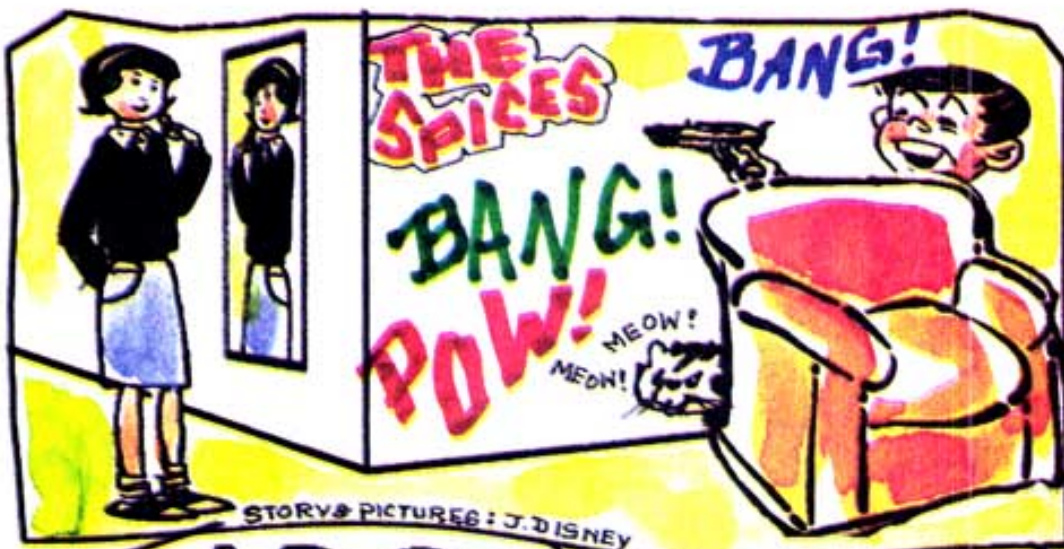
The decoration was made retrospective to the year 1854 to honour the soldiers of the Crimean war.

The decoration consists of a bronze straight armed cross 'PATTE' which is 38 mm across and has raised edges.

On the obverse, in the centre, is a lion guardant standing upon the Royal Crown. Below the crown are the words 'For Valour'.

On the reverse side is engraved the date of the act of bravery along with the name of the recipient.







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